HEEL-RAISERS: Staggeringly cute shoes are stepping into spring | **Inside**



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Weekend



On the Economy: Clinton. Obama tout recovery plans | 4

Brain Study: Scientists find many schizophrenia strains | 3

Red-Hot Curry: Son of ex-NBA star is standing tall for Davidson | 27

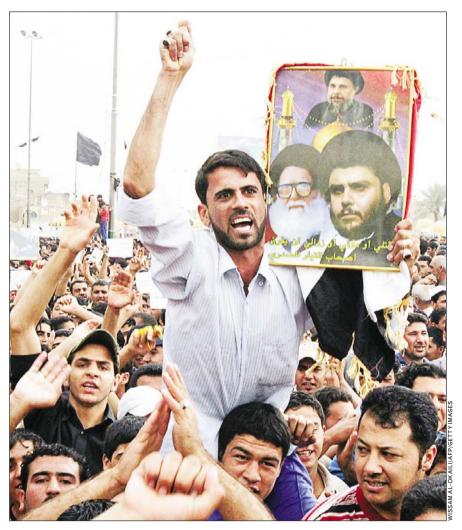


Weak Bet: Jim Sturgess is a stupid genius in the disappointing '21.' Plus, 'Stop-Loss' is war for the MTV

>> 12-20







Protesters Decry Iraqi Crackdown

DEFIANT: Followers of radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr protest in Baghdad on Thursday against a crackdown on Shiite fighters in Basra. Despite calls for his resignation, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki pledged "no retreat" in the battle against militants, who again barraged the U.S.-protected Green Zone with rockets, killing one American. * Sadr speaks: Cleric seeks political solution | Page 6

U.S. Plans Inventory Of Nukes

Gates orders report following mistaken delivery to Taiwan

WASHINGTON | Defense Secretary Robert Gates has ordered a full inventory of all nuclear weapons and related materials after the mistaken delivery of ballistic missile fuses

to Taiwan, the Pentagon said Thursday.

Gates told officials with the Air Force, Navy and Defense Logistics Agency to assess inventory control procedures for the materials and to submit a report within 60 days.



Gates

Earlier this week, Gates directed Navy Adm. Kirkland H. Donald to take charge of a full investigation of the delivery mistake in which four cone-shaped electrical fuses used in intercontinental ballistic missile warheads were shipped to the Taiwanese instead of the helicopter batteries they had ordered.

The fuses were delivered in fall 2006, but the military did not fully realize the gravity of the blunder until last week, triggering sharp protests from China and forcing President Bush to acknowledge the error in a phone call Wednesday with Chinese President Hu Jintao. Lolita C. Baldor (AP)



IF YOUR PREFERRED DEMOCRAT ISN'T THE NOMINEE, WILL YOU VOTE FOR MCCAIN? (4) YES (9) NO (6) I'M NOT A DEMOCRAT





54 32



SUNDAY 48 39

eye Openers

PUNITIVE

If Only This Worked On Loud Co-Workers

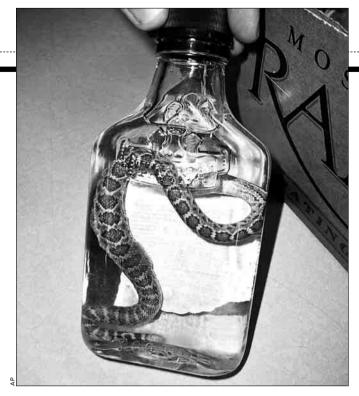
A man has talked himself into about two years in jail after threatening to kill a Shelby County, Tenn., criminal court judge. Joshua

Beadle has been held in contempt and sentenced to 10 days per word after a judge ordered him to stop the threatening comments. Judge Lee Coffee stopped counting at 70 words and sentenced Beadle to 700 days in iail. Beadle was shackled and outfitted in a special hooded spit mask during the hearing Monday after spitting at the judge at a hearing in January. Beadle missed the judge and instead hit a clerk's comTRASE

Yet, It's Still Cleaner Than U.S. Politics

For Ed Warren, becoming mayor of the Australian Outback town of Winton was the luck of the draw from a trash can. The cattle farming town chose its new mayor late Wednes-

> day by drawing a name from a trash can after local elections ended in a draw. Warren said Thursday he was surprised by the unconventional approach used to break the 423vote tie with rival candidate Butch Lenton. "If I was prepared, I was going to say we'll toss for it." Warren told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio. (AP)



ALCOHOL

Snakes Are a Pain

A rattlesnake rancher found a new way to make money: Stick a rattler inside a bottle of vodka and market the concoction as an "ancient Asian elixir." But Bayou Bob Popplewell's bright idea appears to have landed him on the wrong side of the law, because he has no liquor license. Popplewell surrendered to authorities Monday. He spent about 10 minutes in jail after the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission obtained arrest warrants for him on misdemeanor charges of selling alcohol without a license and possessing alcohol with an intent to sell. (AP)

EASTER

Mysterious Stranger Had Cottony Tail

An 18-year-old in Patriot, Ind., will have the prom night she dreamt of, thanks to a mystery man's Easter tip. Kelsey Tolliver was selling newspapers inside Cincinnati's University Hospital last Sunday when, she says, a customer in his mid-20s wished her "Happy Easter" and said to keep the change. First, she thought he'd given her \$4 for a \$1.50 Sunday paper. But then

she realized the wad of bills was too thick— and she had \$500 in \$20 bills, plus four \$1 bills. The high schooler says she gave half the money to her stepfather. The rest she's using for a dress, shoes, purse and limo for her senior prom. (AP)

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NICE PLY: A man in Binghamton, N.Y., was escorted out of a city building after trying to pay his \$2,509.66 water bill with a check written on floral print, two-ply toilet paper. The man is fighting a water bill from 2006 that has racked up late fees.

Nation



Puerto Rico's Gov. Anibal Acevedo Vila is accused of campaign violations.

Puerto Rico Gov. Denies Wrongdoing

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO | Puerto Rico Gov. Anibal Acevedo Vila indignantly denied wrongdoing Thursday and gave no sign he would abandon his re-election effort after being charged with campaign finance violations that carry a penalty of 20 years in prison.

Acevedo, a superdelegate to this summer's Democratic convention, accused U.S. prosecutors of pursuing a politically motivated indictment alleging that the governor and a dozen other people conspired to illegally pay off his campaign debts.

His indictment on 19 charges — including conspiracy to violate federal campaign laws, conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service and giving false testimony to the FBI — made him the latest U.S. governor to run into legal trouble.

Schizophrenia's Diagnosis Complex

Scientists say genes that cause disease may vary among patients

SCIENCE | Patients with schizophrenia are three to four times as likely as healthy people to harbor large mutations in genes that control brain development, and many of those glitches are unique to each patient, researchers reported Thursday.

The findings are forcing scientists to rethink the reigning model

DISEASE AND DISORDER

- → Schizophrenia is a disease of disordered thinking and behavior. Patients have trouble organizing their thoughts or communicating sensibly, and many experience auditory or visual hallucinations.
- → The disease, which typically emerges in early adulthood, used to be blamed on "bad mothering" but has since come to be recognized as having genetic roots.

of how genes and environment conspire to cause the debilitating disease, which affects about 1 percent of the population worldwide.

In part, scientists said, the new view is daunting because it suggests that many, and perhaps most, people with schizophrenia have their own particular genetic underpinnings.

At the same time, the study shows that new DNA screening techniques can identify and differentiate among those various mutations. In the long run, that could help doctors choose the best medicines for individual schizophrenics and speed the development of drugs tailored to certain patients' needs.

The research, which appears in the journal Science, also offers tantalizing evidence that seemingly separate diseases such as autism, manic-depressive illness and schizophrenia may in fact be different versions of an overarching class of neurodevelopmental problems that involve many of the same genes.

ATLANTA | INSPECT DELAYS



WAITING GAME: Travelers wait Thursday at the Delta Air Lines ticket counter at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. American Airlines and Delta Air Lines canceled hundreds of flights Thursday as they continued inspections of wiring on some planes. Delta expected to cancel about 275 flights. American canceled 141 flights by mid-afternoon.

Woman Who Started Forest Fire Sentenced

DENVER | A former U.S. Forest Service employee who started Colorado's worst wildfire has been sentenced to 15 years of probation and 1,500

hours of community service.



Barton

Terry Barton was resentenced Thursday after her original state sentence of 12 years in prison was overturned

by the Colorado Appeals Court.

Barton pleaded guilty to starting the 2002 fire that scorched 138,000 acres, destroyed 133 houses and forced more than 8,000 people to leave their homes. (AP)

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Nation



The percentage of 18-to-24-year-old students in a new survey of 6,800 students at 38 universities who didn't change their political outlook during college.



Barack Obama speaks Thursday in New York, where he was introduced — but not endorsed — by Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Dems Tout Economic Help

Obama proposes new stimulus bill; Clinton calls for job retraining

NEW YORK | Democrat Barack Obama said Thursday a firmer government hand is needed on Wall Street, and a \$30 billion stimulus is needed to rescue homeowners and the jobless.

Meanwhile, rival Hillary Rodham Clinton called for a new job retraining program to remedy what both candidates derided as Republican indifference to a sputtering economy.

Both Obama and Clinton argued

that Republican nominee-in-waiting John McCain isn't ready or willing to handle an economic emergency.

"The phone is ringing, and he would just let it ring and ring," Clinton said in Raleigh, N.C., echoing the "3 a.m. phone call" TV ad she used



Clinton

earlier to suggest she was more qualified than Obama to handle a national security crisis.

While many of the two Democrats' ideas on the economy overlap, Obama laid out six different areas where he would stiffen regulations of the financial system. He proposed relief for homeowners and the long-term unemployed as part of an additional \$30 billion stimulus package, much like the one Clinton offered last week.

He said outdated government regulations have fallen dangerously behind the realities of modern finance.

'We do American business – and the American people — no favors when we turn a blind eye to excessive leverage and dangerous risks," Obama said in New York. DEVLIN BARRETT (AP)

FBI Identifies Contractors' Remains

MINNEAPOLIS | After 16 months of hoping and praying, family members of two U.S. contractors kidnapped in Iraq received the news they feared: Their loved ones were not coming home alive.

Officials have identified the remains of Paul Johnson-Reuben of Minneapolis and Joshua Munns of Redding, Calif., FBI spokesman Richard Kolko said on Thursday.

The FBI said the men's remains have been returned to the U.S.



The FBI has identified the remains of Irag contractor Paul Johnson-Reuben.

Johnson-Reuben's family learned of his death late Wednesday.

Kathy Reuben, Johnson-Reuben's first wife, said the last few days have been difficult for the family, which has felt grief one day and hope the next.

'Today, we do get to feel better. It's over. Paul's in heaven: he's a happy man today," she said.

Messages left for Munns' family were not immediately returned Thursday. Amy forliti (AP)



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World



"She has brought honor to [France], not just for reasons of external appearance, but because beneath that appearance ... is a woman of beliefs."

- Nicolas Sarkozy, French president, on his wife, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, Thursday in London.

In Brief



People walk in Heathrow Airport's Terminal 5, which opened on Thursday.

LONDON

Delays at Heathrow's New Terminal Strand Passengers

Opening day at Heathrow Airport's grand new Terminal 5 turned sour Thursday as severe baggage handling delays led to numerous flight cancellations, stranding many irate passengers. What was supposed to be a day of glory for British Airways, the sole occupant of the terminal, turned into a shambles as problems worsened. The airline was finally forced to restrict passengers at the terminal to carry-on luggage only, leaving many seeking refunds. (AP)

MORONI, COMOROS

Government Asks France to Hand Over Deposed Leader

The Comoros government is calling on France to hand over a deposed rebel leader for trial, but France says it has its own case to pursue and was examining an asylum request. Comoros government troops, backed by African Union forces, ousted Col. Mohamed Bacar from one of the archipelago's islands this week. Bacar had claimed the presidency of Anjouan island and spoken of seeking independence. (AP)

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

S. Korea Withdraws Officials From Office with N. Korea

South Korea withdrew officials from a joint economic office with North Korea Thursday in a diplomatic spat stemming from Seoul's new tougher stance on the North's nuclear disarmament. The North made the demand Monday after South Korea's unification minister said Seoul would hold off on expanding the joint-Korean industrial zone until the dispute over Pyongyang's nuclear programs was resolved. (AP)

Iraqi PM Vows 'No Retreat' in Fight

Green Zone attacked as thousands call for al-Maliki to resign

BAGHDAD | Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki pledged "no retreat" Thursday in the fight against Shiite militias in the southern city of Basra, as thousands of protesters demanded he resign over the crackdown and extremists fired rockets into the U.S.-protected Green Zone.

Shiite militia leader Muqtada al-Sadr called Thursday for a political solution to the burgeoning crisis and an end to the "shedding of Iraqi blood." But the statement, released by a close aide, stopped short of ordering his Mahdi Army militia to halt attacks on the Green Zone or stop fighting in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city.

In a sign of the deteriorating security, gunmen in Baghdad seized a high-profile government spokesman from his home in a Shiite neighborhood, killing three of his bodyguards and torching his house. In a bid to curb the violence, Iraq's military ordered vehicles and pedestrians off the streets of the capital until Sunday morning.

The campaign to rid Basra of lawless gangs and Shiite militias — some believed tied to nearby

U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL PUT ON HIGH ALERT

The State Department has instructed all personnel at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad not to leave reinforced structures due to incoming insurgent rocket fire that has killed two U.S. government workers this week. In a memo sent Thursday to embassy staff and obtained by The Associated Press, the department says employees are required to wear helmets and other protective gear if they venture outside. (AP)

Iran — is a major test for al-Maliki, a Shiite, and for the Iraqi military. The ability of Iraqi leaders and security forces to control situations like this one is key to U.S. hopes of withdrawing from the country.

Al-Maliki put his credibility on the line by flying down to Basra and issuing a weekend deadline for the surrender of Mahdi Army militiamen loyal to al-Sadr. But the militiamen were still controlling Basra's streets Thursday, and the security operation has triggered a violent response among al-Sadr's followers in Baghdad and cities throughout the Shiite heartland of southern Iraq. ROBERT H. REID (AP)



Foreign journalists photograph a Tibetan protester who participated in the March 14 riots against Chinese rule of Tibet.

Reporters Shown a Controlled Tibet

In emotional outburst, monks decry lack of religious freedom

LHASA, CHINA | The stage-managed tour of Tibet's holiest temple was going according to the government script. Suddenly, 30 young Buddhist monks pushed their way in, slammed the door, and began shouting and crying to the foreign reporters that there was no freedom in the riot-torn region.

"What the government is say-

ing is not true," shouted one monk, first in Tibetan until reporters asked them to speak in Chinese. Then a wellspring of grievances poured out before government officials abruptly ended the session and told the journalists it was "time to go."

The emotional, 15-minute outburst by the red-robed monks decrying their lack of religious freedom was the only spontaneous moment Thursday in an otherwise tightly controlled government trip to the Tibetan capital for foreign reporters following this month's riots.

On the second day of the tour, officials hewed to the government line — that the most violent anti-Chinese protests in nearly two decades was plotted by the exiled Dalai Lama and his supporters. Officials escorted two dozen reporters to shops, clinics, a school and a jail to interview victims and rioters, many of them already widely interviewed by state media.

Those who tried to leave the pack were followed by car and on foot, making contact with ordinary Tibetans risky. CHARLES HUTZLER (AP)

Dutch Man Posts Film On Islam

Lawmaker's movie shows Muslim holy book, violent images

AMSTERDAM | A Dutch lawmaker released a film highly critical of Islam on Thursday, setting verses of the Muslim holy book against

a background of violent images from terrorist attacks.





Wilders

ment had warned Wilders that a film offensive to Muslims could spark violent protests in Islamic countries, like those two years ago after European newspapers published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

"The film equates Islam with violence," Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende said. "It serves no other purpose than to cause offense."

Dutch television refused to broadcast the film, which is called "Fitna," an Arabic word that can be translated as "ordeal. Toby Sterling (AP)

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World

PLANE IN SPACE: Japanese scientists and origami masters hope to launch a paper airplane from space and learn from its trip back to Earth. A prototype passed a durability test in a wind tunnel this month, Japan's space agency adopted it Wednesday for feasibility studies, and a well-known astronaut is interested in participating in the project.

Zimbabweans Prepare for Election

President seeks another term while residents struggle with inflation

HARARE, ZIMBABWE | The word is out: The Spar supermarket has bread at only \$7 million per loaf. People rush to the shelf marked \$7 million, but by the time they reach the till with their hyper-inflated Zimbabwean dollars, the price is up to \$25 million.

That equals just 62 American cents, more than a teacher makes in a week. "How can we afford to eat that?" a woman exclaims. Customers leave their loaves at the counter and walk out with their brick-size bundles of bank notes, angry.

Daily scenes of struggle with the world's highest inflation are the dark backdrop to an election Saturday in which Robert Mugabe is fighting to prolong his 28-year-old presidency, outpolled by his main opponent and accused of laying elaborate plans to rig the vote.



Supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change party call for the defeat of President Robert Mugabe at an election rally near Harare, Zimbabwe, Thursday,

On 84-year-old Mugabe's watch, the country has collapsed from being a food exporter to being dependent on international food handouts and money sent home by many of the 5 million people more than a third of the population - who have fled Zimbabwe.

People long cowed into silence by Mugabe's strong-arm methods are

The president faces two opponents in Saturday's election:

- → Morgan Tsvangirai, 55, a trade unionist of the Movement for Democratic Change.
- → Simba Makoni, 58, a former finance minister and former ruling party loyalist who is running as an independent. (AP)

speaking openly against their leader, seeing the election as a last hope for the country where inflation is more than 100,000 percent per year.

But Mugabe is accused of stacking the decks against his opponents, redistricting voting constituencies, buying votes with gifts such as tractors, and delivering state-subsidized food to only his party supporters.

The election is about more than iust this Montana-size country in southern Africa. Many other African leaders, seeking to become democratic, are torn about how to deal with Mugabe. Angus shaw (AP)

Envoy: U.S. Will Not Interfere in Pakistan Politics

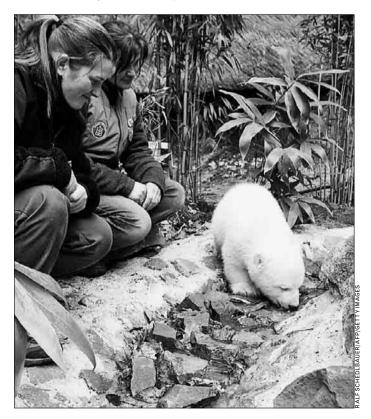
KARACHI, PAKISTAN | A senior U.S. envoy promised Thursday that Washington would not interfere in Pakistan's politics to save longtime ally President Pervez Musharraf, but he was cautious about the new government's hopes to talk peace with pro-Taliban forces.

Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte offered little defense for Musharraf, whose help in combatting Islamic extremists was deemed crucial by Washington after the Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S.

Any debate "with regard to the issue of his status is something that will have to be addressed by the internal Pakistani political process," Negroponte said, alluding to calls for Musharraf to resign.

It was a clear indication that Washington has shifted from its reliance on Musharraf in relations with Pakistan, where his opponents won an election victory last month. (AP)

NUREMBERG, GERMANY | ZOO EXCURSION



FIRST LOOK AT NEW HABITAT: Zookeepers watch as 3-month-old female polar bear cub Flocke inspects the ground during her first excursion to an outside enclosure at a zoo in Nuremberg, Germany, on Thursday,





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Money



NET NEUTRAL: Comcast Corp. announced Thursday it will treat all types of Internet traffic equally and not interfere with file-sharing. The company is under investigation for allegedly hampering the file-sharing activities of its subscribers.

GDP Report Suggests Difficult Times Ahead

U.S. economy grew just 0.6 percent in final months of 2007

WASHINGTON | The economy nearly sputtered out at the end of the year and is probably faring even worse now amid continuing housing, credit and financial crises.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that the gross domestic product increased at a feeble 0.6 percent annual rate in the October-to-December quarter. The reading provided stark evidence of just how much the economy has weakened. In the prior quarter, the economy clocked in at a sizzling 4.9 percent growth rate.

The gross domestic product

measures the value of all goods and services produced in the Unit-

mists say they

believe growth in

the current Jan-

uary-to-March

quarter will be

even weaker than

ed States and is the best barometer of the country's economic health. Many econo-

The percentage sales of U.S. goods and services to other countries grew at the end of '07. driven in part by the weak dollar.

the 0.6 percent figure of the previous quarter.

"The economy just kept its head above water" in the fourth quarter, said Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist at Global Insight. "The first-half outlook is bleak." JEANNINE AVERSA (AP)

Market Action

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| 2-year | 4.68 | 4.64 | Japanese Yen | 100.00 | 100.00 | 117.95 | | |
| 10-year | 4.67 | 4.68 | Mexican Peso | 10.6952 | 10.7066 | 11.0497 | | |
| 30-year | 4.83 | 4.86 | Taiwanese Dollar | 30.21 | 30.03 | 33.08 | | |

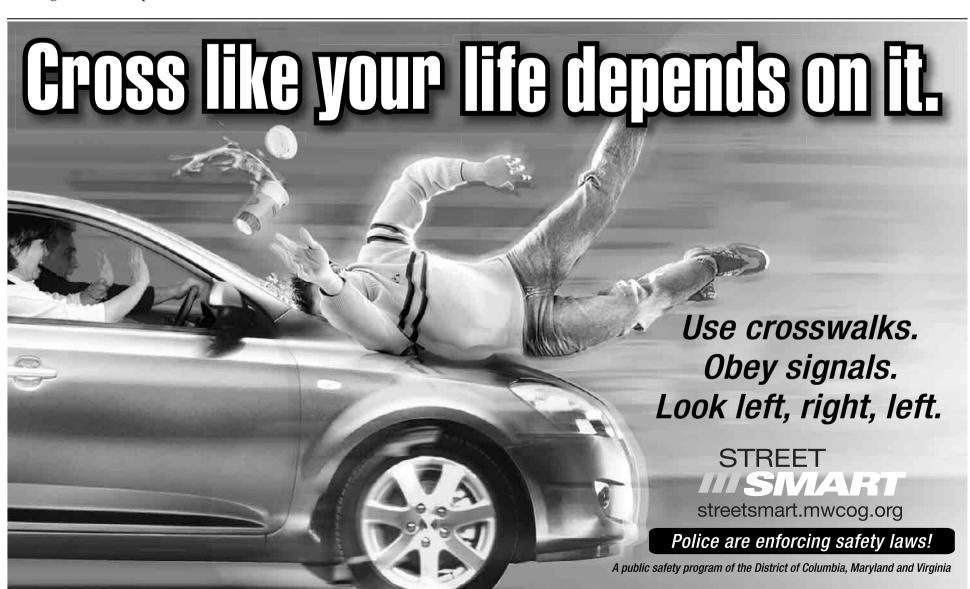
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| STOCK | LAST | DAILY Change | YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE | | | | | |
| AbtLab | 53.55 | 48 | -4.6 | | | | | |
| Allergan s | 57.03 | +.23 | -11.2 | | | | | |
| AstraZen | 37.36 | +.19 | -12.8 | | | | | |
| BarrPhm | 48.22 | 13 | -9.2 | | | | | |
| BrMySq | 21.30 | +.10 | -18.7 | | | | | |
| CephIn | 65.49 | 40 | -8.7 | | | | | |
| ForestLab | 39.91 | +.63 | +9.5 | | | | | |
| Hospira | 42.52 | 20 | 3 | | | | | |
| JohnJn | 64.62 | 08 | -3.1 | | | | | |
| LillyEli | 50.43 | +.24 | -5.5 | | | | | |
| Merck | 44.78 | +.08 | -22.9 | | | | | |
| Pfize | 20.56 | 13 | -9.5 | | | | | |
| SchergPl | 19.30 | +.60 | -27.6 | | | | | |
| WarnerChil | 17.60 | +.19 | 7 | | | | | |
| Wyeth | 41.84 | +.01 | -5.3 | | | | | |
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Local

Williams' Dream Fulfilled

Ex-D.C. mayor was key player in construction of Nationals stadium

WASHINGTON | The man most responsible for bringing baseball back to the nation's capital stood on the front row of the bleacher seats beyond right-center field. his right hand on the railing, a blue Washington Nationals cap on his head and one of his trademark bow ties complementing his tan trench coat.

Before him lay one of his biggest legacies, Nationals Park, where the sounds on a beautiful sunny day included a lawn mower traversing the outfield grass and the pounding of hammers in the upper deck as workers rushed to finish work before Opening Day.



Ex-D.C. mayor Anthony Williams was instrumental in bringing baseball to D.C.

"It's like looking from the top of a mountain after a really hard climb," former District of Columbia mayor Anthony Williams said. "There's a real sense of accomplishment."

"There ought to be two balls thrown — by the president of the United States and the former mayor that got this done," said Mark Tuohey, the former chairman of the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission who took part in many of the baseball negotiations. "This is Tony Williams' baby."

Williams said he feels the benefits of the stadium will outweigh the cost. The money to pay off the bonds is already coming in faster than expected. The blocks around the ballpark are an unsightly mess of construction as developers, much as they did for the downtown arena, rush to turn a long-neglected area into a vibrant part of town.

"For someone who really wasn't officially a politician, underestimated as a political leader, I got a lot done. So, in that sense, there is a lot of vindication," Williams said. "That's one nice thing about being a mayor: You can do things and see them finished." JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

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THE LORD'S WORK: Carpenter and Catholic deacon Dave Cahoon, left, and Carlos Hernandez work on the altar that Pope Benedict XVI will use during his visit to Washington April 17. Cahoon, a specialist in church woodworking, said the project is an honor and joked his work will be "down hill from here."

Md. Rep. Wynn Says He'll Step **Down in June**

WASHINGTON | Maryland Rep. Albert Wynn said Thursday he will resign before his term ends to take a Washington law firm job, a move that comes after the eightterm Democrat's sound defeat in last month's primary.

Wynn will leave his seat in June, saying, "It was time to move into another phase of my life." Activist and lawyer Donna Edwards beat Wynn by 22 percentage points in the Feb. 13 primary, and she is favored to win the November general election in the heavily Democratic Fourth Congressional District. (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, March 27

Hot Lotto (Wed.)

DISTRICT Mid-day Lucky Numbers 0-7-2 Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.) 2-6-9 Mid-day DC 4 4-0-4-8 Evening DC 4 (Wed.) 1-8-6-1 Rolling Cash Five (Wed.) **6-21-27-33-35** Daily 6 (Wed.) 8-15-17-21-22-32 Bonus: 19

5-8-11-31-39(5)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3 6-5-1 Evening Pick 3 (Wed.) 0-4-5 Mid-day Pick 4 1-7-5-8 Evening Pick 4 (Wed.) Match 5 (Wed.) 5-19-26-34-35 Bonus: 32 Lotto (Wed.) 2-6-14-22-41-42

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.) Evening Pick 3 (Wed.) 3-6-3 Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.) 5-9-7-2 Evening Pick 4 (Wed.) 9-3-7-7 Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.) 3-7-13-19-25 Evening Cash 5 (Wed.) 1-11-22-25-30 Win for Life (Wed.) 9-11-23-29-30-39

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Weekend Entertainment

COUNTRY Badass Progeny: Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash play music that's as much fun as their name at Iota Saturday night. | **16**





MTV DOES POLITICS: Ryan Phillipe and Channing Tatum bring some unwonted MTV hotness to the war drama "Stop-Loss."

Real World War

The war in Iraq gets the MTV treatment as eye candy abounds

FILM | For her first film since 1999's "Boys Don't Cry," the raw drama that earned Hilary Swank the first of her two best-actress Academy Awards, Kimberly Peirce initially wanted to make a documentary about soldiers who had fought in the Iraq war.

Inspired by her younger brother, she wanted to let them tell their stories of discontentment, of questioning the war, of going AWOL. Then she learned that one of her brother's friends was among the tens of thousands who have been stop-lossed by the military — sent back for another tour of duty even though they had fulfilled their contracts — and decided to make the feature "Stop-Loss" instead.

As director and co-writer, she tells the story of Sgt. Brandon King (Ryan Phillippe), who returns to his small Texas town with a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, a welcomehome parade — and orders to return to Iraq, even though he thought he was done and was looking forward to civilian life. Instead, he flips out and goes AWOL, taking a road trip with Michele (Abbie Cornish), the girlfriend of his childhood best

friend and fellow soldier, Steve (Channing Tatum). Steve is also home on leave, but he's a shaken shell of his old self, as is Joseph Gordon-Levitt as the self-destructive Tommy. Michele is like a sister to Brandon, and Peirce wisely doesn't force a romance between them.

Peirce also shows great sensitivity to the trauma these men endure as they struggle to resume their former lives.

But Peirce (with co-writer Mark Richard) also vacillates between earnestness and superficiality, making "Stop-Loss" too often feel like eye candy with a message.

The movie is an MTV Films production, and, clearly, the aim of its marketing and youthful cast is to draw a young audience to the subject matter; other well-intentioned features about the Iraq war, such as "In the Valley of Elah" and "Rendition," have been unable to nab young movie-goers, despite Oscar-winning directors and casts.

The cast in "Stop-Loss" is fantastic-looking — and frequently shirtless. There's a scene in which the muscular Tatum wears nothing but heather-gray briefs as his character drunkenly tries to dig a trench in Michele's front yard. The next day, he's still in his briefs while horsing around with the guys on Brandon's ranch.

It's appealing, and it might get those coveted 20-something butts in the seats, but the sequence does undermine the seriousness "Stop-Loss" ultimately is trying to achieve. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

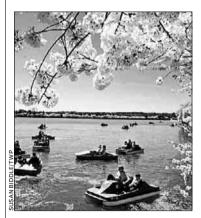


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Would it be a good idea to ride bikes down by the Tidal Basin? I don't really want to do all the walking from the Metro, but I also don't want to be dodging pedestrians on my bike.

Yes, and the Park Service has set up two valet parking areas for bikes, too — one at the Jefferson Memorial and another by the Washington Monument. Park your bikes, stroll around, and pick up your rides when you're ready to leave.

→ National Cherry Blossom Festival, National Mall; 877-442-5666.



Cherry blossoms and their rabid followers have taken over D.C. Run!

I'm looking to get a couple I know a gift. Do you have any recommendations on a cooking class that might be at a cool location other than a classroom setting? I want something with a little more ambience than Williams Sonoma/Sur La Table — perhaps at a nice restaurant or at the instructor's home. My budget is \$150 total.

Try L'Academie de Cuisine in Bethesda — it has so many classes; you're bound to find one. Nice idea, by the way.

→ L'Academie de Cuisine, 5021 Wilson Lane, Bethesda; 301-986-9490. (Bethesda)

The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Cooper Leads Twisted 'Life'

Confused comedy covers marriage, infidelity and murder

FILM | "Married Life" turns out to be as indefinable as the condition it's named for, not to mention as variable. What starts as a dark comedy that plays like a film noir, or a film noir that plays like a dark comedy, detours into a melodramatic comedy of manners and ends up confused.

Maybe this was what director Ira

Sachs, whose "Forty Shades of Blue" won the Sundance Grand Jury Prize in 2005, was going for in tossing together genres like salad greens, but they never gel into a consistent point of view.

Chris Cooper plays Harry Allen, a married businessman in his 50s who has fallen in love with a younger woman. Harry wants to marry Kay (Rachel McAdams), but for that he'd have to leave his wife, Pat (Patricia Clarkson), who he loves too much to see suffer. To



Chris Cooper agonizes over Rachel McAdams in the film "Married Life."

spare her the pain of losing him, he decides to kill her instead.

It's a hare-brained idea and a brilliant premise for a farcical dark comedy — the idea that the splendid, spunky Pat would be better off dead than sans Harry is inherently absurd — which is why it's so disconcerting to see the talented Cooper play his hapless Romeo as a tormented would-be killer straight out of Hitchcock, twisted by his dirty conscience into knots. CARINA CHOCANO (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Entertainment

Weekend



GREEDY GRINS: Kate Bosworth and Jim Sturgess are blinded by the bright lights.

House of Inane Cards

Shallow characters and a precarious plot render '21' unstable

FILM | The brainiacs of the gambling romp "21" are smart enough to expertly count cards at the black-jack table, identify hot betting tables and put on disguises so they can take casinos to the cleaners.

So, why are these MIT scholars so dumb they fall into greedy, grubby plot holes a C-minus Statistics 101 student would have seen coming a mile to the Nth power away?

The movie's a morality play preaching sophomoric ethics — avarice, bad; clean living and hard work, good. Yet in doing so, the only interesting thing "21" holds up to the light is the gluttony the movie eventually decries — money, booze, fast living, the sheer intemperance of making a killing, Vegas-style.

The characters are reprehensible at worst, seedy and selfish at best.

Moving from romantic comedy into supposedly heavier material, "Legally Blonde" director Robert Luketic takes on this adaptation of Ben Mezrich's book "Bringing Down the House," an account of

real Massachusetts Institute of Technology students who beat Vegas at the blackjack tables.

The dramatization of their exploits centers on Ben Campbell (Jim Sturgess, the crooning romantic lead of last fall's "Across the Universe"), a math whiz who needs either a free-ride scholarship or \$300,000 hard cash to move on to Harvard Medical School.

With the scholarship looking iffy, how convenient that one of his professors, the flamboyant Micky Rosa (Kevin Spacey), approaches Ben to fill an open spot on his blackjack team, an extracurricular activity for select students who spend weekends in Vegas winning barrels of cash by counting the cards to determine the probability of winning hands.

It's also convenient that a lovely classmate the slightly geeky Ben already has his eye on, Jill Taylor (Kate Bosworth), is a member of the blackjack team.

With Micky pulling the strings, Ben, Jill and their confederates cash in with a vengeance before mean old Mr. Greed makes them all start behaving like oafs.

DAVID GERMAIN (AP)



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WHAT'S IN A NAME? A lot. And the Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash know this, man.

Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

Rick Ross's "Trilla" vaulted into the No. 1 position on Billboard's Top 200 Album, Digital Album and Top R&B/Hip Hop Album charts this week, even though his single "The Boss" is hovering outside the Top 40 in its fifth week of release. Still, somebody will probably yell for it at LOVE tonight, where the Trilla aka the Boss aka Boss Major aka Rick Ro\$\$ is taking the stage to promote "Trilla," because, as the song says, every day he's hustlin'.

Stephen Malkmus could be taking the easy way out. Reunions remain all the rage, and if the former frontman for indie rock gods Pavement decided to get the gang back together, he could embark on a Pixies-level headlining tour. But nearly 10 years after Pavement called it quits, Malkmus continues to forge ahead with his solo career, indulging in more jam-rock excess and non-sequitur wordplay on his fourth album, "Real Emotional Trash." John Vanderslice opens at the 9:30 CLUB.

We've written about a number of Rock en Espanol groups, but the local band Nayas never seems to fall squarely into that category. Mixing Sublime-style ska-punk grooves and reggae music, Nayas' dancefloor-friendly songs should get the crowd moving at THE BLACK CAT tonight. Headlining is Si*Se, a New

York-based group whose head-nodding mix of funk and soulful trip-hop flirts liberally with bossa nova and other Latin beats. Thievery Corporation fans will find plenty to like here.

SATURDAY

The Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash boast one of the most badass names in American music, even if their sound is closer to gentle Bakersfield-style country and Americana than the edgy rockabilly and country performed by their namesake. Still, the band's 2005 album "Mile Markers" has a number of outlaw-style highlights. Catch singer/guitarist Mark Stewart and his band at IOTA Saturday night.

SUNDAY

Speaking of Johnny Cash — and Lord knows we can't stop — there's a tribute to the Man in Black at JV'S Sunday night featuring Johnny Cash tribute artist Jed Duvall and the Tennessee Quartet. No, we didn't know there was a Johnny Cash tribute act in the area, but we're darn curious. The show is a Sunday matinee, so be there by 5 p.m. to get a seat. There's no cover, and the music goes until 8 p.m.

Think the freak-folk genre went extinct when Devendra Banhart started doing fashion spreads? Not so fast. The Dodos have brought it back to life with the excellent new album "Visiter." Logan Kroebler and Meric Long put more into their songs than some fingerpicked acoustic guitar and off-key caterwauling. There's more substance and structure in songs such as "Jodi," which is built on an insistent drumbeat and dynamic shifts that take it from psych to folk to drone and back. Silje Nes opens at DC9.



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THE BAND'S VISIT (PG-13, 89 minutes) Israeli filmmaker Fran Kolirin's comedy was disqualified as a nominee for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar because it contained too much English. Audiences can see for themselves that this little film was robbed. It begins just as eight men arrive at an unnamed Israeli airport. They're on their way to a performance. but between their Arabic, broken English and nonexistent Hebrew, they wind up in a dusty desert backwater. (AH)

THE BANK JOB (R, 110 minutes) In the early 1970s, Terry (Jason Statham), owner of an unsuccessful car dealership in London, gets a tip from an old friend (Saffron Burrows) about a bank vault whose alarm system is temporarilv disabled. But as he recruits a team to steal the valuables, he is unaware of the Machiavellian hands at play. He is soon embroiled in a tragicomedy of errors that includes black militants, MI5 operatives, sexually licentious aristocrats and one sleazy crime lord (David Suchet) hellbent on saving his skin. (рт)

COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G, 86 minutes) This movie ran out of ideas just after they came up with the title. Martin Lawrence's James wants his daughter (Raven-Symoné) unscathed by any of it. She wants to par-tay, Dad wants her to go to Northwestern; she wants to go to Georgetown. Eventually, however, he relents and agrees to drive her to Washington. Perhaps there will be people who do laugh at Lawrence and Raven-Symoné screaming in tandem, or mugging their way along every tortured mile of their road trip. (JA)

THE COUNTERFEITERS (R, 94 minutes) Salomon Sorowitsch (Karl Markovics) finds himself in a concentration camp where his credo of self-preservation takes on starker tones. Sorowitsch and other Jewish prisoners with expertise in banking and printing become central to the Nazi plan to devastate the English and American financial markets with a flood of forged currency. The degree to which they assist forms the moral core of director Stefan Ruzowitzky's film. The story's most compelling personality, and the best reason to see the film, is Sorowitsch. He is uneasy in the role of protagonist, and when his dignity is shattered, it is fascinating to watch him use his outlaw instincts to maneuver and manipulate, ADAM BERNSTEIN



THE BODYGUARD: Owen Wilson, center, is hired by a group of misfits as bully protection in Judd Apatow's "Drillbit Taylor."

DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO!

(G, 88 minutes) A computer-animated feature that strikes an amiable balance between honoring the text and the dictates of contemporary animation, the film is as good as one could hope for in this era of post-literate impatience. It does honor the book's flavor and spirit with a bright, funny treatment. Voice performers Jim Carrey (as Horton) and Steve Carell (the Mayor) play their roles just right, without making the movie about them. (DT)

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13, 102 minutes) When three geeks are threatened by a psychotic bully (Alex Frost), they hire Drillbit (Owen Wilson) to coach them in self-defense; what they don't know is that he's a homeless drifter who's robbing them blind. With the formula firmly in place, the film goes through all the motions, culminating not in the mother of all high school rumbles. And like most of those fights, there's nothing to see here, folks. Best to move along. (AH)

FUNNY GAMES (R, 107 minutes) With this movie, Michael Haneke's uber-disturbing remake of his own 1997 Austrian thriller. the director reasserts his omnipotence over all he surveys and constructs namely, a home invasion on Long Island's tony North Shore that features terror, murder, degradation and a Bunuelian bursting of characters' bourgeois bubbles, sans the Bunuelian laughs. During the humiliation and assault on the family, the feelings generated are repugnance, anxiety and a thirst for reprisal. We are under vicarious attack and want to perpetrate

our own retributive violence on the criminals invading our field of vision. It isn't a pretty feeling. Although the movie's star is Haneke himself, his actors are sublime. Tim Roth, despite being in the subordinate role to Naomi Watts's resilient Ann, provides a perversely elevating element

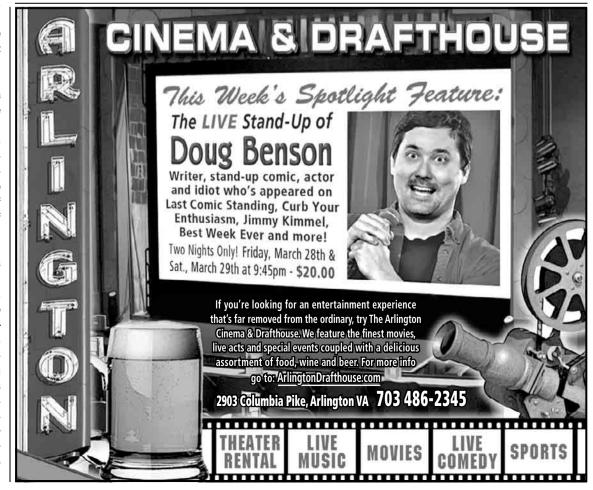
to an otherwise dour story. (JA) IN BRUGES (R, 107 minutes) Writerdirector Martin McDonagh's first feature film is a dry, wine-dark comedy, powered by Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson, who play two wry Irish hit men named Ray and Ken. The pair find

themselves in Bruges, the Flemish port city known for its medieval architecture and bell tower. Ken (Gleeson) is willing to make the best of it. Ray (Farrell), not so much. Ray may be restless, but it's his fault they're here: They have been remanded to Bruges by their boss, Harry (Ralph Fiennes), because when Ray murdered a priest outside a confessional he also put a bullet in the head of a little boy at prayer, (JA)

JUNO (PG-13, 91 minutes) When whipsmart teenager Juno (Ellen Page) becomes pregnant, the unplanned result of a quick liaison with boyfriend Paulie (Michael Cera), she decides to find a home for her baby. She meets a seemingly slick and perfect yuppie couple (Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman) who plan to give the child the life that Juno can't. Only superficially a teen comedy. the movie redounds with postmodern but emotionally genuine—gravitas. What distinguishes it is its memorable banter among the characters, all of whom feel real. And let's not forget how funny the movie is, too, (DT)

MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG-

13, 101 minutes) Set in 1930s London, the story of a dowdy governess who finds adventure and love when she works as a starlet's personal assistant for 24 hours is just the tonic for filmgoers eager for a film that celebrates the bearable lightness of being. Frances McDormand Continued on page 16





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Continued from page 15

plays Guinevere Pettigrew, who, as the movie opens, is being summarily sacked. Director Bharat Nalluri jumps right into the action, sending Miss Pettigrew from firing to employment agency to the posh apartment of aspiring actress Delysia Lafosse (Amy Adams) within scant minutes. For the rest of the film, Adams flirts, froths, simpers and sings her way into our hearts as a round-heeled woman with a heart of only-just-slightly-tarnished gold. (AH)



ENDLESS LOVE: Distance can't break a mother-son bond in "Under the Same Moon."

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R, 120 minutes) Derived from the Cormac McCarthy novel of the same name, this high-end "literary" thriller traffics as much in ideas as in thrills, sometimes to its own detriment. It follows as a Vietnam vet (Josh Brolin) out antelope-hunting comes across a Texas drug deal gone bad. Bodies, guns, blood, flies and folly are everywhere on the arid plains. Each figure is given, a la standard thriller operating procedure, a single moral or psychological attribute and then acts in accordance to that principle and nothina else. (sн)

THEOTHERBOLEYNGIRL (PG-13.114minutes) This movie is half a notch above a

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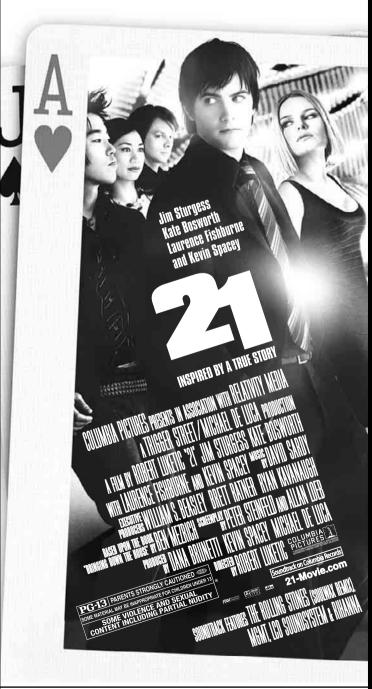
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Weekend

Now Playing

shameless bodice ripper, starring Scarlett Johansson as Mary Boleyn, the "other" of the title, and Natalie Portman as her more famous sister. This Anne stops at nothing to secure that snug spot in His Majesty Henry VIII's (Eric Bana) fourposter bed. There's a quilty pleasure to these and other soap-operashen anigans, visually ennobled by the costumes and royal lifestyles. (DT)

SHUTTER (PG-13, 85 minutes) There's scarcely a plot twist in this remake of a Thai horror film that one couldn't predict before it happens. Yet because the acting is strong, this ghostly revenge thriller is intriguing. Newlyweds Ben (Joshua Jackson) and Jane (Rachael Taylor) move to Japan, where Ben works as a photographer. Jane becomes obsessed with odd, blurry images in their wedding photos and in shots Ben takes at work. She learns they are "spirit photos" and discovers why she and Ben are being haunted. (JH)

10,000 BC (PG-13, 109 minutes) When D'Leh (Steven Strait) manages to fell the biggest mammoth of 'em all, he wins the hand of Evolet (Camilla Belle), a blue-eyed beauty. When a band of warlords invades their settlement, making off with Evolet and a boy named Baku (Nathanael Baring), D'Leh and master hunter Tic Tic (Cliff Curtis) set off on an epic journey and wind up in what looks like Giza — if it were the third millennium B.C. and not the 10th. And who's counting, anyway? It's computer effects, not logic, that reign supreme. (AH)

THERE WILL BE BLOOD (R, 158 minutes) Based very loosely on the novel "Oil!" by Upton Sinclair, this film stars Daniel Day-Lewis as a miner named Daniel Plainview, who while digging for gold and silver in Southern California in the late 1890s discovers oil. The movie traces his rise as an independent oilman, his fight with Standard Oil, his relationship with his adopted son and his feud with an ambitious young preacher. (AH)

TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13, 100 minutes) Angela Bassett stars as Brenda, a single mother who lives a tough life in the Chicago projects with a teenage son, Michael (Lance Gross), and two younger daughters. She has just lost her job, her son's deadbeat father won't pay her child support and the power company has shut off her electricity. She gets a temporary reprieve when she travels to rural Georgia to attend the funeral of the father she never knew. This means meeting country kin, including the kind Continued on page 19

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STOP-LOSS (R) RUN, FATBOY, RUN (PG-13) 21 (PG-13) SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG-13)

*MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) 12:20, 1:00, 3:00, 3:40, 5:20, 7:20,8:00,

*DRII I BIT TAYI OR (PG-13) 12.05, 2.35, 3.05, 7.55, 1. *SHUTTER (PG-13)

HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) NEVER BACK DOWN (PG-13) COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G)

10,000 BC (PG-13) THE BANK JOB (R)

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IN BRUGES (R) 4:35, 7:05, 9:35 SNOW ANGELS (R) UNDER THE SAME MOON (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40 STOP LOSS (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55 THE BAND'S VISIT (PG-13) 12:35, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:00 RUN, FATBOY, RUN (PG-13) 12:25, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, COUNTERFEITERS (R)

12:15, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30 MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY



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*MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) 0, 1:45, 2:45, 3:45, 4:2 :15, 9:15, 9:55, 10:45 *21 (PG-13) *21 (PG-13)

*SUPERHERO MOVIE(PG-13)

*RUN, FATBOY, RUN (PG-13) *STOP-LOSS (R) HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) *DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13)

SHUTTER (PG-13) 10,000 BC (PG-13) COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) THE BANK JOB (R) NEVER BACK DOWN (PG-13) DOOMSDAY (R)

VANTAGE POINT (PG-13) MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG-13) THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG-13)1:35, 9:10 PM

CONSOLIDATED THEATRES | ACADEMY STADIUM | LAUREL CINEMA 6 **THEATRES** 26 at Beltway Plaza

www.Academy8theaters.com Beltway Exit 23, W. on Greenbelt Rd. 301-220-1155 (I) NO Pass/No Discount Ticket Friday-Thursday: Shows starting between 12 noon - 5 pm: Adults \$6.50, Child \$6.00 Saturday: ALL SHOWS STARTING BEFORE 12 NOON ARE \$5.00

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10,000 BC (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10 DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13)

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13)
12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 10:20
21 (PG-13)
()12:00, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:10
MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13)
()12:10, 12:30, 2:30, 2:50, 5:05, 5:25, 7:30, 7:50, 10:00 10:20 7:30, 7:50, 10:00, 10:30 SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG-13) (!)12:30, 2:45, 5:30, 7:40, 10:30 HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) 12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20

MARLOW 6 THEATRES

Temple Hills, Md. 301-316-1031
Showtimes Mon-Thur 2pm onwards till 8pm start shows
Last shows Sunday 8pm
Showtimes may change without notice SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG-13) 12:45, 2:45, 4:45, 6:45, 8:45,10:40 MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13)

12:15, 1.10, 2.00, 1 7:20, 8:05, 9:40, 10:25 HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 10:20 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:10 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20,10:1 10,000 BC (PG-13) 1:00, 3:20, 5:50, 8:15, 10:30 COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 7:55, 9:50

P&G WHEATON 11 Westfield Wheaton Mall 301-949-9201 301-949-9201 (!) denotes no passes All shows before 6pm \$6.00

MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 9:45 DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13) 12:50, 3:00, 5:15, 7:35, 9:45 12:50, 3:00, 5:15, 7:35, 9:45 SHUTTER (PG-13) 1:00, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:20 NEVER BACK DOWN (PG-13) 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55 HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:25, 9:33 **COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G)** 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40 10,000 BC (PG-13) 12:40, 3:00, 5:15, 7:25, 9:45

P&G WESTFIELD MONTGOMERY

7101 Democracy Blvd. Beth 301-7 BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM!

21 (PG-13) 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:45 HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40 **DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13)** 1:00, 3:05, 5:15, 7:35, 9:45

LAUREL SHOPP 301-604-2885 SHOWS BEFORE 6PM \$5.00

SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG-13) 4:30, 7:15, 9:25 MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) 4.45, 7.05, 9.30 SHUTTER (PG-13) 4:35, 7:10, 9:20 COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) .. +0, 7 .20, 9:15 **HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G)** 4:50, 7:00, 9:10

P&G OLD GREENBELT 301-474-9744 40 ft. Screen At intersection of Crescent & Southway All shows before 6:00pm are \$6.00

MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG-13) 5:00, 7:30, 9:30

VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA www.oldto

SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG-13)
4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

CONSOLIDATED THEATRES KINGSTOWNE 16

5910 Kingstowne Towne Center Alexandria, Va. 703-822-4956 www.consolidatedmovies.com

*SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT/NO PASSES

*SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG-13)
12:35, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00,10:15
*21 (PG-13)
11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:45,10:30
*RUN, FATBOY, RUN (PG-13) *NON, FAIBOY, RON (PG-13) 11:40, 2:05, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40 *STOP-LOSS (R) 1:05, 3:45, 7:00, 9:35 *MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) 12:00, 1:25, 2:35, 3:50, 5:00, 6:40, 7:50, 9:05, 10:25 SHUTTER (PG-13) 12:25, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35, 9:50 *DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13) 11:50, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 10:00 **HORTON HEARS A WHO!(G)** 11:35,12:45,1:45, 3:00, 4:00, 5:15, 11:35,12:45,1:45, 3:00, 4:(6:15, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45)
10,000 BC (PG-13)
12:55, 3:35, 6:55, 9:30
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) 12:15, 2:20, 4:25, 6:45, 8:55 VANTAGE POINT (PG-13) 1:10, 7:05 PM THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG-13) MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY

(PG-13) 12:05, 3:15, 6:05, 10:10 NEVER BACK DOWN (PG-13) THE BANK JOB (R) 12:20, 3:20, 7:10, 9:55

CINEMA ARTS THEATRE 703-978-6991 9650 Main St., Fairfax www.cinemaartstheatre.com

BONNEVILLE (PG) Exclusive DC Area Engagement!! NIAKKIED LIFÉ (PG-13)
10:10, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
VACATION (NR)
9:55, 12:10, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:35
COUNTERFEITERS (R)
10:10, 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:30, 9:30
MISS PETITIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY
(PG-13) 10:15, 12:25, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:10
IN BRUGES (R)
10:05, 12:15, 2:40, 7:50, 9:55
CARAMEL (PG) 5:00 MARRIED LIFE (PG-13) 10:10.12:00.2:00.4:00.6:0

CONSOLIDATED THEATRES FOX CINEMAS 16

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*21 (PG-13) 11:05, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40,10:30 *RUN, FATBOY, RUN (PG-13) *RUN, FATBUY, KUN (FG- 10, 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40 *SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG-13) 11:35, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:05 *STOP-LOSS (R) 11:55, 3:55, 7:10, 9:50

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13) 11:20, 1:30, 4:25, 6:50, 9:35 *MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) 11:50, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:20 *SHUTTER (PG-13) 12:40, 3:10, 5:20, 7:45, 10:00 HORTON HEARS A WHO ! (G) 11:00,12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00,

6:30, 7:20, 9:00, 9:45 COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:05, 9:15 JUNO (PG-13)(PG-13) 12:25, 7:25 PM DOOMSDAY (R) 3:45, 9:55 PM 3:45, 9:55 PM VANTAGE POINT (PG-13) 12:10, 2:25, 5:15, 8:05, 10:25 10,000 BC (PG-13) 12:30, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20 JUMPER (PG-13) 12:20, 3:20, 5:30, 8:00, 10:10 THE BANK JOB (R)

12:45, 4:30, 7:35, 10:15 SEMI-PRO (R) 3:30, 9:25 PM THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (PG)11:25, 6:40 PM

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COUNTERFEITERS (R)

1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50 YEAR MY PARENTS WENT ON VACATION (NR) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 UNDER THE SAME MOON (PG-13) 1:45, 4:25, 7:30, 9:55 FLAWLESS (PG-13) MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY

(PG-13) 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:15 PARANOID PARK (R) THE BAND'S VISIT (PG-13)

2:00, 4:30, 7:00 PLANET B-BOY (NR) 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:00 JUNO (PG-13) 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30

PHOENIX THEATRES UNION STATION 9

202-842-4455 Advance Ticketing Available at www.phoenixtheatres.com * No Passes

*21 (PG-13) 11:35, 2:10, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00 *MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) 11:30, 12:00, 2:15, 2:45, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:20, 9:50 ***DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13)**

HORTON HEARS A WHO!(G) COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) 12.05, 2.50, 4:40, 7:45, 9:45 10,000 BC (PG-13) 11:45, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05 NEVER BACK DOWN (PG-13)11:50, 2:40,5:10,7:45,10:10

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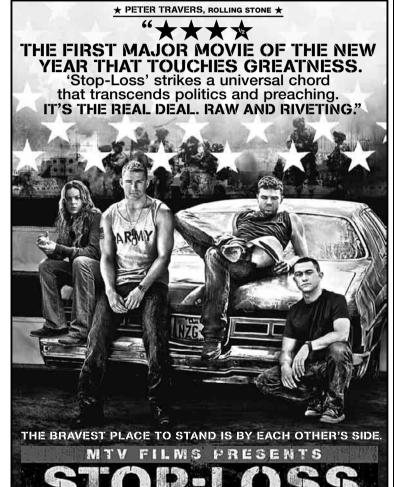
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Adv. Tix on Sale NIM'S ISLAND (PG) *
Adv. Tix on Sale CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13)
HORTON HEARS A WHO (G)
MARRIED LIFE (PG-13)
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G)
THE BANK JOB (R) - ID REQ'D
10,000 BC - DP (PG-13)
THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG-13)
VANTAGE POINT (PG-13) 0 630 730 920 1000 1205 1225 (1215 245) 520 745 1025 (1130 145) 410 650 910 1130 (1225 240) 455 725 955 1215 (130) PM (1150 225) 505 740 1020 (1155 230) 515 810 1040

(110) 420 710 950 1230 (100) 315 530 820 1035

Clebe Rd, Arlington

RUN, FATBOY, RUN (PG-13)

PRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13)

UNDER THE SAME MOON (PG-13)

UNDER THE SAME MOON (PG-13)

UNDER THE SAME MOON (PG-13)

HORTON HEARSA WHO (G)

MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG-13)

THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG-13)

BE KIND REWIND (PG-13)

VANTAGE POINT (PG-13)

VANTAGE POINT (PG-13)

VANTAGE POINT (PG-13)

(125 400) 635 915

VANTAGE POINT (PG-13)

(124 0415) 800

(110 445 45) 620 855

Adv. Tix on Sale NIM'S ISLAND (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE

CASPIAN (PG) ★
THE SUPER HERO MOVIE (PG-13) (100 315 530) 745 1015
STOP LOSS (R) - ID REQ'D (115 400) 700 1000
21 (PG-13) (145 230 430 515) 730 800 1015 1045
SHUTTER (PG-13) (100 315 530) 745 1000
SHUTTER (PG-13) (100 315 530) 745 1000
TYLER PERRY'S: MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) (300 215 030)
DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13) (200 500) 800 1030
HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) (230 550) 715 945
10,000 BC - DP (PG-13) (145 415) 700 930
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) (300 515) 739 930

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13)
HORTON HEARS A WHO (G)
10,000 BC - DP (PG-13)
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G)
VANTAGE POINT (PG-13)

BETHESDA 10 7272 Wisconsin Avenue

Adv. Tix on Sale NIM'S ISLAND (PG) ★ Adv. Tix on Sale CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE

AGV. IIX OR Date CHRUNICLES UP INANIBLE. FINIDE.
CASPIAN (PG.) ★
THE SUPER HERO MOVIE (PG-13) (1245 255 510) 715 930
21 (PG-13) (1145 130 230 415 515) 700 800 945 1045
SHUTTER (PG-13) (150 400) 610 815 1020
TYLER PERRY'S: MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) (1140 200 420)
TYLER PERRY'S: MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) (1140 200 420)

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13)
HORTON HEARS A WHO (G)
HE BANK JOB (R) - ID REQ'D
10,000 BC (PG-13)
VANTAGE POINT (PG-13)

(1240 120 340 420) 640 720 955 1035 (200 435) 710 940 1200 (220 500) 740 1020 (140 400) 630 850 1110

MILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13) (215 455) 745 1025
TYLER PERRY'S: MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) (1210 130 210 250
410 450 530) 650 730 810 930 1010 1050 1140
OC & DA: SHUTTER (PG-13) (410) F50 910 1130
SHUTTER (PG-13) (410) 650 910 1130 SAUTTER (PG-13)
UNDER THE SAME MOON (PG-13)
HORTON HEARS A WHO (G)
10,000 BC (PG-13)
10,000 BC - DP (PG-13)
10,000 BC - DP (PG-13)
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G)
VANTACE DRIFT (G) (230 515) 800 1045 (155 430) 700 920 1120 PM (205 505) 755 1040 (150 445) 735 1025

COUNTRYSIDE STADIUM 20 45980 Regal Plaza 800-FANDANGO 394#

Adv. Tix on Sale NIM'S ISLAND (PG) *
Adv. Tix on Sale CHRONICLES OF NAM

CASPIAN (PG) ★
THE SUPER HERO MOVIE (PG-13)
STOP LOSS (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 300 520) 750 1010 (140 420) 700 945 (1130 130 230 430 530) 730 830 1030 (1210 250 515) 745 1030 (1215) PM (240 510) 800 1015

21 (PG-13) (1130 130 230 430 530) 730 830 1930 RUN, FATBOY, RUN (PG-13) (1210 250 515) 745 1030 CC & DA: SHUTTER (PG-13) (240 510) 800 1015 TYLER PERRY'S: MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) (1120 1230 200 DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13) (1140 1240 220 320 500) 610 740 840

1020 (1135 210 450) 710 950 (100 345) 650 930

10,000 BC - DP (PG-13) (110 340) 635 920 COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) (1120 120 405) 630 900 THE BANK JOB (R) - ID REQ'D (1255 330) 620 910 MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG-13) (1125 150 410) 645 915 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG-13)

VANTAGE POINT (PG-13) JUMPER (PG-13) SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (PG) (1245 315 545) 810 1025 1005 PM (1250 350)

ROCKVILLE CENTER STADIUM 13 Rockville Town Center 800-FANDANGO 248#

(100 400) 700 1000 1220 21 (PG-13) (100 400) 700 1000 1220
THE SUPER HERO MOVIE (PG-13) (1215 245 515) 745 1015 1215
UNDER THE SAME MOON (PG-13) (1215 245 515) 745 1015 1215
STOP LOSS (R) - ID REQ'D (200 445) 730 1015
TYLER PERRY'S: MEET THE BROWN'S - DP (PG-13) (130 415)
TOUS DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13) (145 15) 715 1000 1210
SHUTTER (PG-13) (1245 530) 1030
C & DA: SHUTTER (PG-13) (1315) 815 DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13) SHUTTER (PG-13) OC & DA: SHUTTER (PG-13) (315) 815 (1200 220 445) 715 945

(115 400) 645 930 1205

Adv. Tix on Sale NIM'S ISLAND (PG) ★
STOP LOSS (R) - ID REQ'D
(110 150 350 430) 640 720 930 1010
(21 (PG-13)
TVLER PERRY'S: MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) (145 420) 710 950
DOMSDAY (R) - ID REC'D
10,000 BC - DP (PG-13)
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G)
CENUR DO (B) ID REC'D
(120 340) 630 900
CROUND (B) ID REC'D
(120 340) 630 900 SEMI-PRO (R) - ID REQ'D SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (PG)

GERMANTOWN STADIUM 14 20000 Century Blvd

CASPIAN (PG) \$\pprox (10) \text{ (10)} (10) \text{ (10)} (10) \text{ (10)} (10) \text{ (10)} \te (145 445) 730 1000 (200 500) 745 1045 (130 430) 715 1000

RILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13) (145 430) 800 1030 (115 230 345 445) 645 730 930 (130 345) 630 915 (100 415) 645 930 (100 400) 700 1015

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Adv. Tix on Sale NIM'S ISLAND (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE

Adv. Tix on Sale CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE
CASPIAN (PG) \$\frac{1}{2}\$
THE SUPER HERO MOVIE (PG-13) (230 500) 800 1030
21 (PG-13) (100 400) 715 1015
STOP LOSS (R) - ID REQ'D (145 430) 730 1015
RUN, FATBOY, RUN (PG-13) (200 445) 745 1000
RUTTER (PG-13) (200 445) 745 1000
RUTTER PERRY'S: MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) (215 445) 745 1020
RILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13) (130 400) 645 915
OC & DA: HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) (150 400) 645 915
CO & DA: HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) (115 330 430) 830 730 945
COLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) (130 45) 745 (70 930)
THE BANK JOB (R) - ID REQ'D (15 445) 745 (70 930)
THE BANK JOB (R) - ID REQ'D (15 445) 745 (70 930)
THE DARREREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG-13) (16 345) 703 930
10,000 BC (PG-13) (16 4515) 715 945
THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG-13) (200 415) 645 915

MANASSAS STADIUM 14 11380 Bulloch Drive

Adv. Tix on Sale NIM'S ISLAND (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE
CASPIAN (PG) ★
THE SUPER HERO MOVIE (PG-13) (1220 310 530

(1220 310 530) 800 1015 (130 430) 730 1030 21 (vd-13)
STOP LOSS (R) - ID REQ'D
(RUN, FATBOY, RUN (PG-13)
(1140
SHUTTER (PG-13)
(1230
TYLER PERRY'S: MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13)

(130 430) 730 1030 (100 400) 700 1000 (1140 210 440) 710 950 (1230 330) 610 820 1030 DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13) UNDER THE SAME MOON (P HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) 10,000 BC - DP (PG-13)

(1135 150 410) 630 900 (110 345) 645 940 1025 PM (1210 240 510) 810

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Entertainment Weekend

Now Playing

Continued from page 17

of spirited characters audiences know to expect in a Tyler Perry movie. (рт)

UNDER THE SAME MOON (PG-13, 109 minutes) Rosario (Kate del Castillo) has been living in Los Angeles for five years, working as a maid and sending money back to her 9-year-old son, Carlitos (Adrian Alonso), who lives with his grandmother in Mexico. A sudden turn of events inspires the resourceful Carlitos to travel to California to find Rosario, even though he possesses only a mailing address and a vague notion of where she calls him every week from a pay phone. The tone never succumbs to unremitting arimness. Instead, the filmmakers regularly leaven their story with a little unexpected grace, m notes of humor and tender

VANTAGE POINT (PG-13, 90 minutes) The president of the United States (William Hurt) has come to Spain to make an announcement about the war on terror. Shots are fired. And then a huge explosion occurs in a city square, killing virtually no one — no one with a name in the credits, anyway - which allows the director to rewind the story's first 23 minutes and lay out the same scenario from a different point of view. And to do this multiple times. Conceivably, it might have worked. In reality, however, during the third or fourth reprise of the assassination attempt and bombing, a member of my audience let out an involuntary "Oh, God ... " and the rest of the house erupted in sympathetic laughter. (JA)

WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS (PG-13, 113 minutes) Martin Lawrence plays a narcissistic talk show host begrudgingly attending a family reunion and running afoul of country kin, old flames and a nasty rival. The latter would be Clyde, a cousin-cum-adopted-brother who beat him in everything as a kid and even stole his sweetheart. Lawrence just builds an ensemble of recognizably cliched archetypes, each more hackneyed than the next, and simply reacts amusingly to them. (рт)

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANN HORNADAY, STEPHEN HUNTER. MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN, DESSON THOMSON AND TERESA WILTZ. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS. SEE

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CAPTURED THE HEAR

- Individual counseling
- FDA approved medication or placebo (50:50 chance of receiving the drug)

To Enroll Call Jessica Rath. PhD (301) 405-0128 Today! STIVERSITA

This study is being funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health

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Bratz: Girls Really Rock Experience includes a \$5 concession coupon Visit amotheatres.com/advancedtickets for participating locations and showtimes

AMC HOFFMAN CENTER 22 Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

21 (PG13) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:25, 12:25

21 (PG13) (10:10 @ \$6), 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10 STOP-LOSS (R) (10:05 @ \$6), 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30, 12:20 SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG13) (10:15 @ \$6), 12:20, 12:40, 2:20, 3:00, 4:40, 5:20, 7:30, 7:40, 9:20, 10:05, 11:40, 12:20 RILLBIT TAYLOR (PG13) (10:50, 11:30 @ \$6), 1:30, 2:15, 4:05, 4:50,

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG13) © (11:30 © \$6), 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:25
SKUHTTER (PG13) (10:00 © \$6), 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55, 12:15
TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) (10:40, 11:20 © \$6), 12:10, 12:5, 2:05, 2:45, 4:20, 4:45, 5:30, 6:55, 7:35, 8:15, 9:00, 9:40, 10:20, 12:10, 12:25, 12:15,

11:00, 11:45, 12:25

DOOMSDAY (R) (10:45 @ \$6), 4:30, 9:50

DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) (10:25, 11:25 @ \$6), 12:35, 1:50, 305, 4:10, 5:25, 6:25, 7:50, 10:15

NEVER BACK DOWN (PG13) (11:45 @ \$6), 2:35, 5:15, 8:10, 11:05

10,000 B.C. (PG13) (11:05 @ \$6), 2:25, 5:05, 7:55, 10:40

COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) (10:30 @ \$6), 2:25, 5:05, 7:55, 10:40

VANTAGE POINT (PG13) (10:35 @ \$6), 12:55, 3:25, 5:45, 8:20, 10:45

VANIAGE POINT (PG13) (10:39 % 5), 12:03, 3:29, 3:49, 6:20, 10:4

RUN FAT BOY RUN (PG13) 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35

UNDER THE SAME MOON (PG13) (10:20 @ \$6), 1:10, 4:25, 7:00,

:45 IISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG13) 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20 :40 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG13) 1:35, 7:05

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14 10300 Patuxent Parkway 703-998-4AMC

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

5, 5:45, 7:20, 8:20, 9:55, 10:55 . SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) (10:30, 11:45 @ \$6), 1:00, 5, 3:25, 4:35, 5:50, 7:00, 8:10, 9:20

2:15, 3:25, 4:35, 5:50, 7:00, 8:10, 9:20
THE BANK JOB (R) (10:50 @ \$6), 1:20, 4:05, 6:40, 9:25
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) (11:30 @ \$6), 1:55, 4:20, 6:50, 9:10
VANTAGE POINT (PG13) (10:25 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:05, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

RUN FAT BOY RUN (PG13) (10:45 @ \$6), 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:05
MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG13) (10:35 @ \$6), 12:50, 23:15 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG13) 10:30 PM

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14

3111 K Street, N.\ 202-342-6441

DIGITAL PRESENTATION DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) 12:20, 2:35, . 9:25. 11:40

4:49, 7:09, 9:25, 113:40
21 (PG13) ✓ 1:00, 2:15, 4:00, 5:15, 7:00, 8:15, 10:00, 11:15, 12:25
STOP-LOSS (R) ✓ 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:45
SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG13) ✓ 1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:05, 12:15
DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG13) € 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:35
SRUITER (PG13) ✓ 1:255, 3:05, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00
TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) ✓ 1:210, 2:30, 4:55, 7:59, 9:55, 12:16

THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG13) 2:00, 4:40, 7:40, 10:25

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT No passes or disc

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

21 (PG13) \(\text{ (10:00. 11:00 @ \$6), 1:00. 2:00, 4:00, 4:45, 7:00, 7:45.} \)

9:55, 10:45 **STOP-LOSS (R)** ✓ (11:50 @ \$6), 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 **SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG13)** ✓ (10:05 @ \$6), 12:30, 2:45, 5:05, 7:15

9.40

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG13) ✓ (11.25 @ \$6), 2.05, 4.50, 7.40, 10:10

SBUTTER (PG13) ✓ (10:10 @ \$6), 12.25, 2.40, 4.55, 7.20, 9:50

TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) ✓ (10:30, 11:15 @ \$6), 12.00, 1:05, 1:45, 2:30, 3:30, 4:15, 5:00, 6:00, 6:45, 7:30, 8:30, 9:15, 10:00, 11:00

DOOMSDAY (R) 4:35, 10:05 DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) (10:45, 11:30 @ \$6), 1:15

DR. SEUSS' HORITON HEARS A WHO (6) (1045, 11:30 @ 50), 11:15, 210, 365, 56:15, 705, 845, 9:30

DR. SEUSS' HORITON HEARS A WHO (6) □ @ (10:45 @ \$6), 11:15, 345, 6:15, 845

NEVER BACK DOWN (PG13) (10:15 @ \$6), 12:55, 3:50, 6:40, 9:25

THE BANK JOB (R) (11:10 @ 56), 12:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20

COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (6) (11:45 @ \$6), 21:55, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45

VANTAGE POINT (PG13) (10:20 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:10, 5:35, 8:00, 10:25

PAIN GET SIL (20 %), 12:43, 3:10, 3:35, 3:00

PAIN SELECT ***

RUN FAT BOY RUN (PG13) \(\times \) 12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35

THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG13) (11:05 @ \$6), 1:50, 7:25

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8

Courthouse and Birch 703-998-4AMC

21 (PG13) \(\times \) 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 8:00, 10:40

STOP-LOSS (R) \(\times \) 12:05, 2:25, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10

SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG13) \(\times \) 12:03, 2:30, 7:50, 10:00

TVLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \(\times \) 2:00, 4:45, 7:10,

10,000 B.C. (PG13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:20 THE BANK JOB (R) 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:35

IN BRUGES (R) 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

800 Shopper's Way, Largo 301-324-4220

6, 4:15, 5:15, 6:05, 7:00, 8:00, 8:45, 9:45, 10:25 SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) 12:05, 1:20, 2:20, 3:50,

4:50, 6:20, 8:50

R. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO (6) © 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50

NEVER BACK DOWN (PG13) 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:50

10,000 B.C. (PG13) 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05

COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (6) 1:220, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15

WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS (PG13) 7:10, 10:10

THE YEAR MY PARENTS WENT ON VACATION (PG) 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20 THE BAND'S VISIT (PG13) 1:40, 3:50, 7:50, 9:55

INE BAND'S VISII (PGT3) 1:40, 3:50, 7:50, 9:50

MARRIED LIFE (PGT3) 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30

MISS PETITICREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG13) 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 9:45

THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PGT3) 1:30, 4:10, 7:20, 9:50

THE COUNTERFEITERS (NR—NOT RATED) 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:10

IN BRUGES (R) 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 9:40

LOEWS UPTOWN 1

126 Connecticut Avenue N.1 1-800-FANDANGO #713

d Captioning · 🔊 - Descriptive Video Se

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16 7850 Tysons Corner Center

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

21 (PG13) (10:15 @ \$6), 12:00, 1:10, 2:50, 4:00, 5:40, 7:00, 8:45, 10:00,

STOP-LOSS (R) (11:15 @ \$6), 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35, 1:00 SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG13) (10:10 @ \$6), 12:35, 2:45, 5:10, 7:25,

9:55, 12:15

DRILLBUT TAYLOR (PG13) 12:05, 2:40, 5:05, 7:40, 10:05, 12:35

SHUTTER (PG13) (11:00 @ 56), 1:25, 3:40, 5:50, 8:25, 10:40, 12:50

TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) (10:20 @ 56), 12:45,

3:15, 5:45, 8:25, 11:00

DOOMSDAY (b) 10:20 PM, 12:50 AM

DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO (B) (0:00, 11:10 @ \$6), 12:10, 12:0, 230, 335, 445, 5:55, 7:08 8:10, 9:20

DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) □ ☑ (11:10 @ \$6), 12:0

1:20, 3:35, 5:55, 8:10 10,000 B.C. (PG13) 11:20,02 B.C. (PG13) 11:20,02 B.C. (PG13) 12:00,02 B.C. (PG13) 10:00,02 B.C. (PG13) 10:00,02

10:50, 12:55 MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG13) 2:10, 7:15 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG13) (11:25 @ \$6), 4:30, 9:30

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE

21 (PG13) \$\sqrt{20}\$ 200, 440, 7:30, 10:15

\$TOP-LOSS (R) \$\sqrt{1}\$ 1:55, 430, 7:10, 95:0

\$UPERHERO MOVIE (PG13) \$\sqrt{1}\$ 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:10

\$UPERHERO MOVIE (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:10

\$UPERHERO YES MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 4:50

\$TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 4:50

\$TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 4:50

\$UPERT PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 4:50

\$UPERT PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY SHOWS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY SHOWS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY SHOWS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY SHOWS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00, 7:15, 0:00

\$UPERT PERRY SHOWS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00

\$UPERT PERRY SHOWS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00

\$UPERT PERRY SHOWS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:0, 6:00

\$UPERT PERRY SHOWS (PG13) \$\sqrt{2}\$ 2:00

\$UPERT PERRY SHOWS

9:30 THE BANK JOB *(CLUB CINEMA)* (R) 7:00, 9:40 THE BANK JOB (R) 1:50, 4:20

LOEWS RIO CINEMAS 18 9811 Washingtonian Boulevard 301-948-0906

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

10,000 B.C. (PG13) (11:00 @ \$6), 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:35 21 (PG13) \((10:30, 11:35 @ \$6), 1:20, 2:25, 4:10, 5:20, 7:00, 8:15,

9:50, 11:05 **21 (PG13)** □ **©** ✓ (11:35 **©** \$6), 2:25, 5:20, 8:15, 11:05 **STOP-LOSS (R)** ✓ (10:45 **©** \$6), 1:30, 4:15, 7:20, 10:00 **SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG13)** ✓ (10:50 **©** \$6), 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:55,

10:10

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG13) / (10:55 @ S6), 1:40, 4:25, 6:55, 9:25

RADE (NR-NOT RATED) (11:55 @ S6), 3:35, 6:45, 9:45

RAUTTER (PG13) / (11:10 @ S6), 1:25, 3:45, 5:55, 8:10, 10:30

TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) / (5), 9:56, 5, 11:10, 10:30 TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) / (1040, 11:50 & 58), 1:10, 203, 340, 455, 6:10, 738, 8:35, 9:55, 1:1:00 Br. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO (B) (10:35, 11:45 @ 58), 12:40, 155, 3:00, 4:05 & 5:15, 6:20, 8:30, 10:40 THE BANK JOB (R) (11:25 @ 58), 2:00, 4:45, 7:25, 10:05 COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (B) (10:45 @ 58), 2:00, 4:45, 7:25, 10:05 COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) (10:45 @ 58), 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:30, 10:15 VANTAGE POINT (PG13) (11:40 @ 58), 2:20, 4:40, 7:15, 9:30

AMC SELECT.

RUN FAT BOY RUN (PG13) / (11:20 @ \$6), 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

UNDER THE SAME MOON (PG13) / (11:05 @ \$6), 2:15, 5:00, 7:35, .20 ISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG13) (11:30 @ \$6), 1:50. 35, 6:30, 9:20 **1E OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG13)** 7:40. 10:25

LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5 North Bethesda 1-800-FANDANGO #741

21 (PG13) 1:55, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10 STOP-LOSS (R) 1:45, 4:35, 7:15, 10:05 DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:15 VANTAGE POINT (PG13) 2:00, 4:15, 7:05, 9:30

THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG13) 1:45, 4:30, 7

EVOCATIVE. A MOVING TALE OF COURAGE, DETERMINATION AND UNQUENCHABLE HOPE. CLAUDIA PUIG, EUSA TODAY SUNDANCE MISMA LUNA



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CBS FOR HIPSTERS: Elisha Cuthbert will star in a new CBS pilot, "Ny-Lon." Prepare for the ultimate hipster darling — her character teaches literature and works in a record store and has a cross-continental romance. Seriously.

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

MISUNDERSTANDING GOD

Orlando Bloom joins the Crusades in the 2005 epic **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** (6 p.m., FX, Fri.), directed by Ridley Scott ("Gladiator").

PLEASE LET THERE BE A CURSE

A dance-club bust reveals evidence of a mummy and a meth lab on **BONES** (8 p.m., Fox, Fri.).

SENIOR MOMENT

Memories of a past assassination haunt an aging Secret Service agent (Clint Eastwood) in the 1993 thriller IN THE LINE OF FIRE (8 p.m., AMC, Fri.).

CELEBS ON DRUGS! SHOCKER!

Scheduled on a two-hour **20/20** (9 p.m., ABC, Fri.): medical mysteries; and young, out-of-control celebrities with substance abuse problems.

THE WIFE OF BATH DID IT

Elizabeth faces mounting evidence on **CANTERBURY'S LAW** (9 p.m., Fox, Fri.)

GEEK-OUT

BATTLESTAR GALACTICA REVISITED

(10 p.m., Sci Fi, Fri.) will help the casual viewer catch up with the series' many twists and quirks, and set him or her up for the fourth and final season.



BAD IDEA, ANNE: Anne Boleyn loses her head on Showtime's "The Tudors."

HOTTIES AND NOTTIES

Kate Bosworth, Spencer Grammer and Serj Tankian appear on **JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE** (12:05 a.m., ABC, Sat.).

CATCH IT IF YOU'RE BORED

Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks star in the 2002 drama **CATCH ME IF YOU CAN** (8 p.m., ABC, Sat.), directed by Steven Spielberg.

KIDS MAKE POOR CHOICES

Jack Black hosts the **2008 KIDS' CHOICE AWARDS** (8 p.m., Nickelodeon, Sat.), featuring musical performances by Miley Cyrus and the cable network's own in-house group, the Naked Brothers Band.

WE SMELL A PLAY ON WORDS

A new movie theater has a clientele to die for on **TORCHWOOD** (9 p.m., BBC America, Sat.).

REBELLIOUS CHILD

Lisa craves secondhand smoke on **THE SIMPSONS** (8 p.m., Fox, Sun.).

AMERICANA AT ITS BEST

The **NATIONALS** host the Braves (8 p.m., ESPN, Sun.).

ADAPT SOMETHING NEW, GUYS

Hattie Morahan stars as the levelheaded Elinor Dashwood in the latest "Masterpiece Theatre" (9 p.m., PBS, Sun.) Jane Austen adaptation, **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**.

LATE TO THE PARTY

Our hero recovers from nearly dying in Holland to discover that the revolution went on quite well without him on **JOHN ADAMS** (9 p.m., HBO, Sun.).

WAIT, HOW MANY WIVES?

Henry becomes head of the Church of England as murder plots abound on the second-season premiere of **THE TUDORS** (9 p.m., Showtime, Sun.).

ALL IN GOOD FUN

In **STATE OF THE UNION** (10 p.m., Showtime, Sun.), Tracey Ullman plays a series of



SAY 'AH': Tracey Ullman chooses an easy target in "State of the Union."

funny characters in a fictional documentary spanning 24 hours in the life of the United States.

SECOND THOUGHTS

Dexter has doubts about the killer's capture on **DEXTER** (10 p.m., CBS, Sun.). KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

| 28.08 | 6:00 PM | 6:30 | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
|----------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|--|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| WRC 4 | News (N) 🚾 | | | Access Hollywood | . , , | | Dateline NBC Mista | iken identity stuns the | | dent victims. (N) | News (N) CC | Tonight Show |
| WTTG 5 | News (N) | TMZ (N) () CC | The Simpsons () | Seinfeld () CC | Bones "The Man in | the Wall" 🚾 | Canterbury's Law (| N) 🕜 🚾 | News (N) | | News (N) | TMZ () CC |
| WJLA 7 | News (N) 🚾 | ABC Wld News | Wheel of Fortune | Jeopardy! (N) | Grey's Anatomy "L | | 20/20 CC | | 20/20 © | | News (N) CC | (:35) Nightline (N |
| WUSA 9 | News (N) 🚾 | Evening News | College Basketbal | I: NCAA Tourn. Region | | | | • | : NCAA Tourn. Regio | onal Semi Kan. vs. Vi | llanova or Memphis vs | s. Mich. St. |
| WDCA 20 | Judge Judy (N) 🕦 | Judge Joe Brown | King of Queens | King of Queens | ★★ "Disney's The | Kid" (2000, Comedy) I | Bruce Willis, Spencer I | Breslin. | Every-Raymond | King of the Hill () | Law & Order: Crim | inal Intent 🚾 |
| WMPT 22 | The NewsHour Wit | h Jim Lehrer (N) | Business Rpt. | State Circle | Inside Wash. | Washington Week | Bill Moyers Journa | (N) 🛈 🚾 | Mystery! "Foyle's \ | War II" "War Games" 🛭 | (DVS) | Smart Travels |
| WETA 26 | BBC World News | Business Rpt. | The NewsHour Wit | th Jim Lehrer (N) | Washington Week | Inside Wash. | Bill Moyers Journa | (N) 🛈 🚾 | NOW on PBS (N) | Unnatural Causes: | Inequality-Sick | Charlie Rose (N |
| WHUT 32 | White House | Tavis Smiley () | BBC World News | Moneywise | Eve. Exchange | Bob Marley and the | e Wailers Live! | Stevie Ray Vaugha | n Live: Play Hard & | & Floor It! 🕦 🚾 | Charlie Rose (N) (1) | CC |
| WDCW 50 | My Wife and Kids | Family Guy © | Two/Half Men | Two/Half Men | WWE Friday Night | SmackDown! (N) (| CC | | Friends () CC | Friends () CC | Family Guy 🚾 | Sex and the Cit |
| A&E | Cold Case Files © | | CSI: Miami "Money | for Nothing" () | CSI: Miami "No Ma | n's Land" © | CSI: Miami "Man D | own" CC | CSI: Miami "Broke | en Home" 🕦 🚾 | The Sopranos "Joi | n the Club" © |
| Animal | The Crocodile Hun | ter © | Ferocious African | | | Lemur Kingdom | Chimp Eden | Chimp Eden | Animal Cops Detr | | Lemur Kingdom | Lemur Kingdom |
| BET | | Top 10 Live Top 10 cour | | College Hill | | | r) Eddie Murphy. Premi | | Iron Ring © | | Malcolm & Eddie | |
| Bravo | Housewives | Real Housewives o | | Real Housewives o | | | pon" (1987, Action) Me | | | 2.40 | *** "Lethal Wear | |
| Comedy | (5:00) ★★★ "Under | | Scrubs () © | Scrubs () CC | Daily Show | Colbert Report | Futurama © | Futurama © | ComPresents | ComPresents | ComPresents | ComPresents |
| Court | World's Wildest Po | | Cops () CC | Cops () CC | American Jail | American Jail | Forensic Files | Forensic Files | Forensic Files | Forensic Files | The Investigators | |
| | Cash Cab | Cash Cab © | How It's Made | How It's Made | Survivorman © | 1orrown our | Man vs. Wild "Jung | | Futureweapons "F | | MythBusters Whirl | |
| DISCH | Code Blue "Fighting | | Trauma: Life in the | | Diagnosis X Unexp | lained naralysis | Diagnosis X "Crash | | Diagnosis X "Smo | | Diagnosis X Unexp | |
| Disney | Zack & Cody | Zack & Cody | Zack & Cody | Zack & Cody | | | n. A teen befriends me | • | | Life With Derek | Zack & Cody | Hannah Monta |
| E! | THS Investigates | | E! News | The Daily 10 | Pop Fiction | Kardashians | Kardashians | Kardashians | The Soup (N) | Soup Presents | E! News | Chelsea Lately |
| | | Heaven" (2005) Orlar | | | | 1 | | er 2" (2005, Action) Ja | 1, , | | Dirt Lucy rekindles | |
| FX | | | House Worth? | | | | Color Correction | | House Hunters | House Hunters | Get It Sold | Parents House |
| HGTV | | | | | . | | | | | | | Parents nouse |
| Family | | rents" (2000, Comedy) | | | | | rents" (2000, Comedy | Robert De Niro, Ben | | er. <u>uu</u> | The 700 Club © | lee beek eekbeen |
| History | American Eats Sna | | | | Modern Marvels: Cold Cuts © | | | | Battle 360 (N) © *** "What's Love Got to Do With It" (| | Shootout! High-sta | |
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| CNN | (4:00) The Situation | Room | Lou Dobbs Tonight | CC | CNN Election Cent | er | Larry King Live (N) | (CC) | Anderson Cooper | 360 CC | | |
| FNC | Special Report 🚾 | | The Fox Report Wi | th Shepard Smith | The O'Reilly Facto | r CC | Hannity & Colmes | CC | On the Record-Va | ın Susteren | The O'Reilly Factor | r |
| MSNBC | Race for White Ho | use-David Gregory | Hardball 🚾 | | Countdown With K | eith Olbermann | Verdict With Dan A | brams | Countdown With | Keith Olbermann | Lockup: San Quen | tin |
| AMC | (5:00) * * * * "Letto | ers From Iwo Jima" (| 2006 War) Ken Watan | ahe 'R' 🔯 | *** "In the Line | of Fire" (1993 Suspen | se) Clint Eastwood, Jo | hn Malkovich 'R' 🔯 | | * * "Gothika" (200) | 3, Horror) Halle Berry. | 'R' [C] |
| тсм | Bunny Lake | ★ "Spider Baby" (1 | <u> </u> | | | m Beneath the Sea" | <u> </u> | | ed Witch" (1948 Δα | dventure) John Wayne. | <u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u> | Below the Sea |
| HBO | John Adams "Don" | | | " (1999, Comedy) Adar | | | In Treatment O | | (9:55) Entourage | (:25) Entourage () | | |
| MAX | | ★★★ "Lethal Weap | , , , | . , ,, | | | 006) Justin Long. O 'P | | 1, , | Plane" (2006, Horror) | | |
| SHOW | Where-Money | (:35) ★★ "American | . , , | | | | eron. iTV. O 'PG-13' | | (9:50) The L Word | | John Witherspoon | 11 60 |
| TMC | | son" (2004, Suspense | | | , , | (2006) Jack Black. (1) | | | | tthew McConaughey. 'P | | ** Silent Rag |
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| STARZ! | | | | | | | | | | | | |



NCAA TOURNEY
Best of the Best: With the Sweet
16 coming to a close and the Elite 8
getting started, we take a look at this
weekend's key players. | 22

Weekend Sports

A New Beginning

The Nats enter the year upbeat after a spring full of competition

NATIONALS | Manny Acta is not fazed.

He led last year's Washington Nationals — made up mostly of parts the rest of the league didn't want — from expectations of futility to the reality of respectability. Compared to last spring's uncertainty, this year's camp probably felt like a vacation.

A year ago, Acta was a rookie manager, and many of his players were rookies, too. By midway through the opening game, Josh Wilson was playing shortstop and Acta was signaling for a Rule 5 pitcher named Levale Speigner to come in from the bullpen.

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Going out to the Nationals' new ballpark this spring?

Take a look at our guide to the full experience, from how to get there to what to eat. | ONLINE NOW

This time around, the exhibition season has been dotted with competitions involving bona fide major leaguers. Will it be Nick Johnson or Dmitri Young at first? Who will be the odd man out in the middle infield — Felipe Lopez, Cristian Guzman or Ronnie Belliard?

"It's been easier because of all the competition," Acta said. "I don't have to be doing all the motivating. Guys are motivating themselves with all the competition out there. It was easier for me. They make the decisions for us basically."

All signs point to Johnson at first, Belliard at second and Guzman at shortstop when the first



Manager Manny Acta said the competition at first base and for the middle infield spots has made spring training easier than in '07 because the players are more motivated.

OPEN THEN OUT

The Nats kick off the season with a nationally televised (ESPN) game at 8 p.m. on Sunday:

→ But they don't hang around D.C. for long. They head up to Philadelphia on Monday for a three-game series, then stop in St. Louis before coming home on April 7 to play Florida.

pitch is thrown in Nationals Park on Sunday night.

Team offense will almost certainly be improved. The bullpen should remain tough.

An eternal optimist, Acta still openly acknowledges the questions that again surround the rotation. Last year's Opening Day starter, John Patterson, was abruptly released this spring. That doesn't happen much in the big leagues.

"We're not at a point where we can consider our rotation a strong point of our team," Acta said.

But like most everything else, he said, it's getting better.

If Shawn Hill (elbow) is fully healthy by mid-April, as the team hopes, his heavy sinker could serve them well. Journeyman right-hander Tim Redding has been reliable since joining the club midway through last season. Right-hander Jason Bergmann and left-hander Matt Chico each have alternated between success and frustration.

And then there's opening night starter Odalis Perez, who joined the club only this spring. He is the seasoned veteran on the staff, with a career 66-70 record and a 4.47 ERA.

"He's healthy and in good shape. We feel good about our rotation," Acta said. "It's a big difference compared to last year." DEREK TURNER

TV Lineup



Sarah Jo-Lawrence led GW to the Sweet 16 with a last-second basket.

⇒ friday

7 P.M. Friday's hoops coverage starts with tourney darling Davidson taking on Wisconsin and ends with Memphis playing Michigan State — with Stanford-Texas and Kansas-Villanova in between. CBS

10 P.M. The Wizards stay out West for a matchup against the Spurs. CSN

a saturday

6:30 P.M. The men's NCAA tournament continues with teams vying for a spot in the Final Four. CBS

7 P.M. The Caps play their last regular season road game of the year in Florida against the Panthers. CSN

9:30 P.M. The Wizards get a tough one against one of the West's best: the Lakers. CSN

9:30 P.M. Maryland's game against Vanderbilt is just one of the regional semifinal games in the women's tournament. ESPN

sunday

12 P.M. The NCAA women's hoops regional semifinals continue, and GW will take on Rutgers at 2:30 p.m. ESPN

1:30 P.M. NASCAR is in Martinsville, Va., this weekend for the Goody's Cool Orange 500. FOX

2 P.M. After Sunday's games, the Final Four will be set — and you will be out of contention in your office pool. CBS

8 P.M. The Nationals start their season in a new stadium against the Atlanta Braves. ESPN

SOFTBALL | A Disappointing 184 Games Over .500
The mighty U.S. Olympic softball team has struck out. Virginia Tech's Angela Tincher pitched a no-hitter in a I-O win over the three-time defending gold medalists Wednesday night, ending the U.S. team's 185-game winning



streak in pre-Olympic exhibitions. It was the American team's first loss in a pre-Olympic exhibition since May 3, 1996. During that span, the U.S. team outscored opponents 1,475-24. Tincher struck out IO and allowed one base runner on a one-out walk to Kelly Kretschman in the second inning. (AP)

Weekend Sports

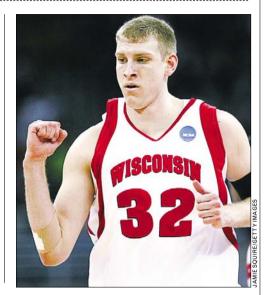
NCAA SPOTLIGHT

A GLANCE AT SOME OF THE KEY PLAYERS IN THE TOURNEY

Brian Butch

→ CENTER, WISCONSIN, NO. 32

When Butch went down with an elbow injury in the 2007 regular season finale, the Badgers never recovered, losing in the second round of the NCAAs. Butch's value has been evident all year. The "Polar Bear" is averaging 12.4 points and 6.7 rebounds for the Big Ten champs. Little was expected before the season, but now Butch's Badgers are the hunted versus upstart Davidson.



Kalin Lucas

→ GUARD, MICHIGAN STATE, NO. I

Generously listed at 6 feet tall, Lucas is the smallest player on the Michigan State roster. He's also probably the quickest. The freshman guard has come up big for the Spartans in big games, most recently with a 19-point performance against Pittsburgh last week. He also put up 18 in an early season matchup against Texas (which MSU could meet in the Elite 8 if MSU gets past Memphis), 20 points against Purdue and 14 against Indiana. If Memphis focuses on senior guard Drew Neitzel or leading scorer Raymond Moore, Lucas will find his shots.

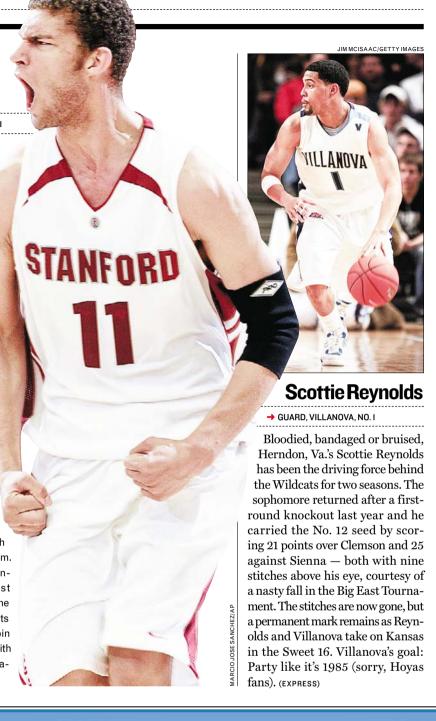


Brook Lopez

→ CENTER, STANFORD, NO. II

Whenever people talk about Stanford, the first words off their tongues are "Lopez twins." The duo of Brook and Robin, both 7 feet tall, are the reason Stanford is in the top 10 in both overall field goal defense and 2-point field goal defense, and is getting ready to play Texas in the Sweet 16. No one wants to get close to the rim when those two are in the game. But we're going to come out and say it: If Brook Lopez is Marlon Wayans, Robin is Shawn. Brook averages 19 points and 8.1 rebounds per game, both by far the best on the team. Plus, he hit the game-winner in overtime against Marquette last week, a game in which he scored 30 points in 28 minutes. When Robin had the chance to end it with two free throws in regula-

tion, he hit just one.

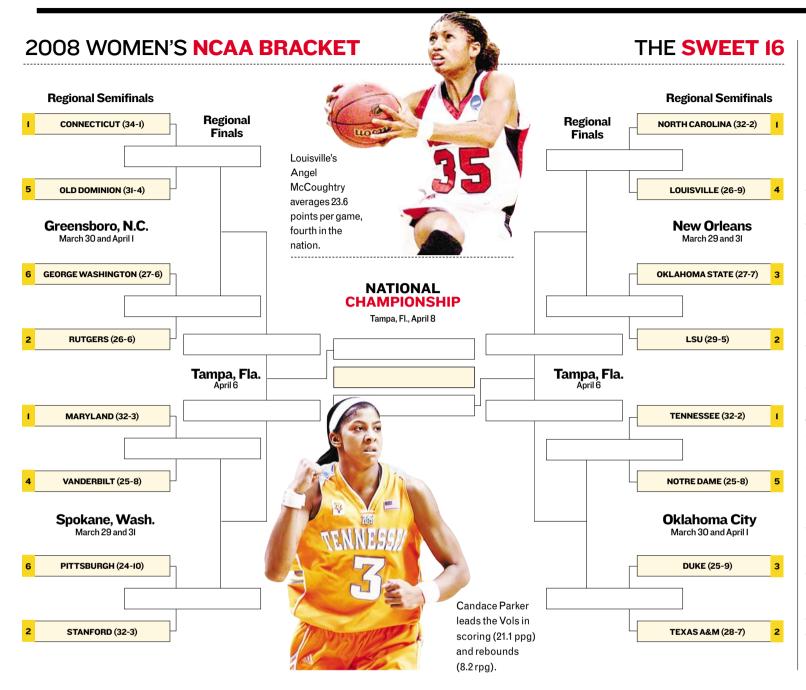




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GW Aims To Get Over **Next Notch**

GW WOMEN'S HOOPS | Sarah-Jo Lawrence caught Kimberly Beck's air ball and put in a layup at the buzzer, giving George Washington's 55-53 win over California in the second round of the NCAA tournament on Monday. But the Sweet 16 is not good enough for the Colonials.

"We always get to this point of the tournament," Lawrence said, "where we're playing a UNC or Tennessee or a Rutgers, a big team like that. This is our chance to establish ourselves'

Indeed, this senior class has lost to No. 1 seed North Carolina in 2005 and 2007, and No. 2 seed Tennessee in 2006. This year, the powerhouse opponent in the bracket is Rutgers, last year's NCAA runnerup. The sixth-seeded Colonials and second-seeded Scarlet Knights meet Sunday in the round of 16.

"It would really put us in the forefront," said Lawrence, part of a senior class that has won 101 games. "And I think that if you want to be in the forefront, you have to beat those really big-time teams. Big teams like Cal and Auburn we've beaten, but the next notch we haven't been able to overcome. This is our last year, our last chance. We're looking to do that." JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

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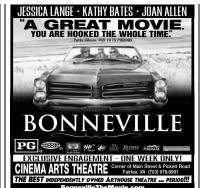
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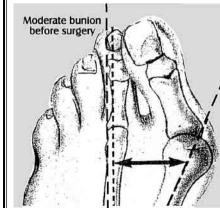
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Maryland Keeps It Close

Terps are in Sweet 16 after winning 2 games that were too scary

TERPS WOMEN'S HOOPS | Brenda Frese can't really explain it. The girls just like a good fight.

The coach and her No. 1-seeded Maryland Terrapins advanced to the NCAA tournament's Sweet 16 this week, but they kept things interesting throughout the opening rounds, played out on their home court in College Park.

On Tuesday against No. 8-seed Nebraska, the Terrapins built a 15-point first-half lead and watched it dwindle to a single point at halftime.

After the intermission, they built a 12-point lead but watched the Cornhuskers trim it to four points before the Terrapins finally pulled away.

"I think sometimes — I hate to say this - we may get bored or we lose focus with what we're doing," Frese said. "Sometimes with young people you lose that



Laura Harper jumps on her teammate's back after a close win over Nebraska Tuesday.

Estimated property



focus and intensity."

It wasn't Frese' first big dance; she understood that and set the bar low for her team. National champions in 2006, the Terps were ousted in the second round a year ago. And despite the fact that they were now a No. 1 seed and playing at home, Frese stressed to her team the effort it would require to advance past the opening rounds and travel to Spokane, Wash., where they will face fourth-seeded Vanderbilt on Saturday.

"We wanted to get out of College

Park," said junior Marissa Coleman. "That's all we've been talking about is getting out of College Park."

Coleman's play late in Tuesday's game typified the team's response to a test. Coleman scored 15 of her 19 points in the second half as the Terps pulled away.

"I knew at some point Marissa was going to be able to click it on," Frese said. "It's a credit to Marissa hanging tough. You can always see that determination, the look in her eye. ... She's a big emotional leader."

But it wasn't just Coleman. Junior Kristi Toliver scored 19 points, including some clutch shots down the stretch. Senior Crystal Langhorne scored 12 of her 18 points and pulled down eight of her 12 rebounds after halftime.

As a team, the Terrapins were out-rebounded by the Cornhuskers in the first half. By the final buzzer, Maryland held a 13-rebound edge. The Terps won the fight under the basket, and they won the game.

"It's a credit to just how competitive we are," Frese said. "We love to compete. We love the challenge." DEREK TURNER

On top of the women's bracket: Keep up to date with live scores, and track the Terps women through the tournament at | washingtonpost.com/sports.





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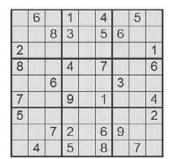
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Weekend sports

Swengali

NATIONALS | BY MATT SWENSON, MATT.SWENSON@READEXPRESS.COM

New Park Could Be Turning Point

IF HISTORY IS ANY INDICATION, the Nationals are bound to open their new stadium with a loss.

Now, many of you will recall that Washington's first game at RFK Stadium was a victory, but our Nats have been a very underwhelming 0-3 on Opening Day since moving to the District from Montreal.

Even that magical first half of 2005 started with a stubbed toe in Philadelphia before the Nationals found magic in those bouncing seats at RFK.

The new seats will probably stay in play at the pristine Nationals Park, which offers a great view no matter where your seats are. Talk about a novel concept!

The opening of a new stadium | luck will cha is always special. I was there when | for the Nats.

Rick Sutcliffe and Chris Hoiles led Baltimore to a win in the inaugural game at Camden Yards.

That team, which had few expectations, surprised baseball with a competitive season that served as a building block to success later that decade (that is, until Peter Angelos ruined it all).

I suspect the Nats will likely replicate the Orioles' run. There is actually talent in the Nats' clubhouse — another novel concept — and more young stars are on the way in the minor leagues.

But, alas, our club has consistently lived up to the city's baseball history by being a slow starter.

At least one loss doesn't kill you in baseball. For motivation, just look at Teddy Roosevelt. He lost every presidents race at RFK Stadium, but he kept trying.

With the new park, maybe his luck will change — just like it may for the Nats.

Jayhawks Soar With United Front

Kansas hasn't lost since a players-only meeting got them back on track

NCAA TOURNEY | The Kansas Jayhawks had just lost for the second time in three games, committing 21 turnovers in a disheartening setback to an Oklahoma State team that was struggling to stay above .500.

Perhaps some friendships were becoming a bit frayed. According to one player, things had been said during the season that had caused feelings to be hurt.

So, the Jayhawks got together at a Lawrence restaurant to let everybody speak their minds. Coaches were not invited.

Since getting together that night, Kansas has won nine straight games and played some of its best basketball of the year. A victory over underdog Villanova on Friday night will put the Jayhawks just one win away from their first Final Four



Mario Chalmers and the Jayhawks hope to get coach Bill Self to his first Final Four.

under coach Bill Self.

Nobody is saying the Jayhawks were in crisis that night. But two straight road losses to Texas and Oklahoma State had created a sense, said senior guard Russell Robinson, that it was time to let everybody have their say.

"The main thing was to get everybody on the same page, get everybody pulling the same direction," said Robinson, a senior guard and team leader. (AP)

Sports Weekend

A Son's Shining Moment

Curry learned from his NBA star dad: now he's the one on the big stage

NCAA HOOPS | He was a skinny kid. not yet in his teens, and watching his father work at practice for the Charlotte Hornets.

Stephen Curry, Dell Curry's son, studied plays and observed how Dad would run off screens.





Now the sophomore guard, who looks as if he's still in middle school, hit eight of 10 3-pointers and scored 40 points in Davidson's upset of Gonzaga in the first round of the NCAA's Midwest Regional.

Then.Curryscored 25 of his 30 points in the second half to send Davidson (28-6) past Georgetown and into the round of 16 for the first time in 39 years.

Curry, with an elegant stroke like that of Dad himself, has been the biggest star on the NCAA stage. He is averaging 25.7 points this season



Stephen Curry, averaging 25.7 points per game, has Davidson in the Sweet 16.

and has hit 1523-pointers, six shy of the NCAA single-season record.

Size was the dirty word for Curry growing up. He was only 5-6 as a sophomore in high school and shot the ball from his waist because he lacked strength. His father made him change his release, and, for a while, Curry couldn't hit the rim

BRACKET CLOSEUP 1 DAVIDSON WISCONSIN SUNDAY KANSAS VILLANOVA

from outside the lane.

9-40 P.M. | FRIDAY

"I wouldn't allow him to shoot anything that changed his form," Dell Curry said. "It was a struggle for him, a tough summer. He was frustrated. I was frustrated, but he stuck with it. And that shows his determination that he wanted to be good."

Curry and Davidson are now preparing for Friday's matchup with No. 2 seed Wisconsin in Detroit.

"We couldn't have scripted it any better," Dell Curry said. "There was a reason he was the smallest kid in high school. There's a reason he didn't get recruited big. He couldn't be on a brighter stage right now. Small school, small player doing big things." MIKE CRANSTON (AP)



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Foreign Flavor Lifts MLS

Imported stars other than Beckham played key roles last season

MLS | The confetti cannons have been put away. The plumes of smoke have dissipated. David Beckham is about to begin his second MLS season with a lot less hoopla.

Now it's time to see how good Beckham and the Galaxy can be.

They surely didn't find out last season, when Beckham arrived amid massive hype in mid-July. He was already hobbled by a bum ankle, then injured his knee and played in just five MLS games. He had no goals and two assists.

"It was difficult last season because I came halfway through and wasn't fit," he said. "Touch wood, the ankle's good, the knee's good. I'm definitely prepared physi-



With 19 goals, Juan Pablo Angel made a bigger impact last year on the field than David Beckham. Like Beckham, was a designated player acquisition before last season.

cally and mentally."

MLS opens its 13th season Saturday, with a new expansion team in San Jose and more international players, especially from Argentina, Colombia and Brazil.

Beckham, Chicago's Cuauhtemoc Blanco and New York's Juan Pablo Angel arrived last season as a result of the designated player rule — which allows teams to acquire a player outside the approximate \$2.2 million salary cap — and MLS continues taking steps to improve its overall level of play.

"In 2007, the standard of play in the league took a huge leap forward," deputy commissioner Ivan Gazidis said. "It wasn't about David Beckham, although David clearly was a huge story for us and has been a terrific ambassador for our league. It was about the players that accompanied him." BETH HARRIS (AP)

A SATURDAY START

If ever an opener could be anticlimactic, this would be it:

 D.C. United opens its season on Saturday in a converted minor league baseball stadium west of Kansas City. There is no live television, and it is conceivable United won't even field its best lineup, considering the assignment it faces three days later. From K.C., United will fly to Mexico. where it will face defending regional champs Pachuca on Tuesday in the first leg of a Champions Cup semifinal series. However, injuries to Jaime Moreno and Ben Olsen and the club's long-standing tradition of treating every game as a mustwin likely will push coach Tom Soehn to go close to full strength against the Wizards. The hosts finished five games behind D.C. last year and upgraded in the offseason with the addition of Argentine legend Claudio Lopez. BRIAN STRAUS

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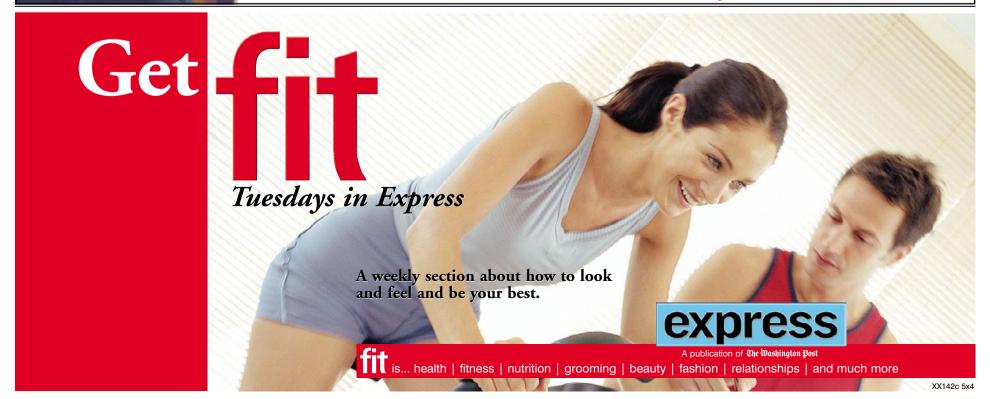
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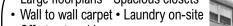
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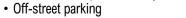




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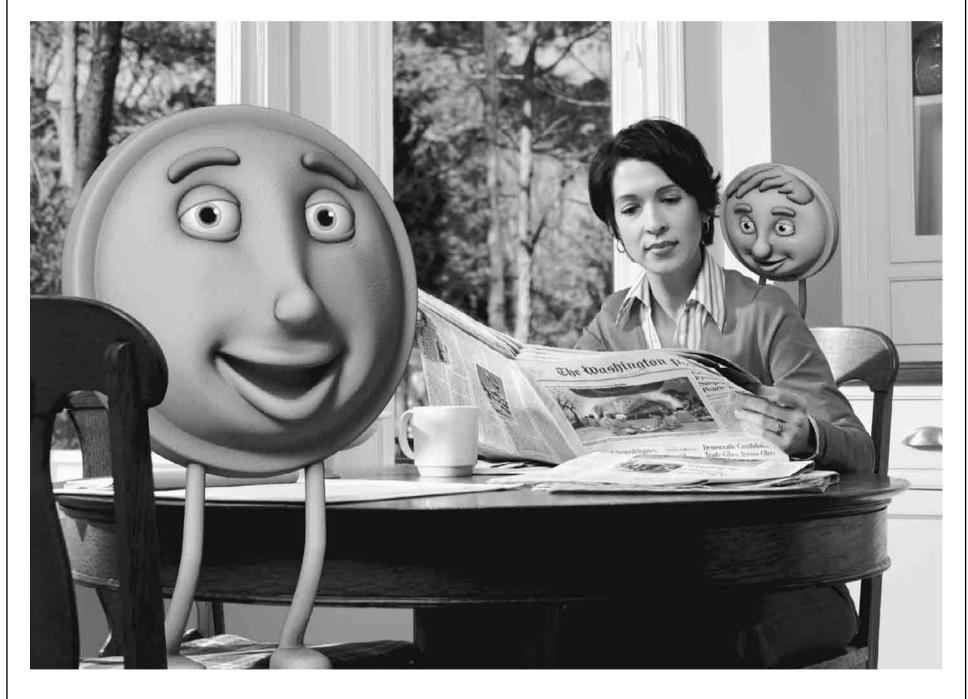
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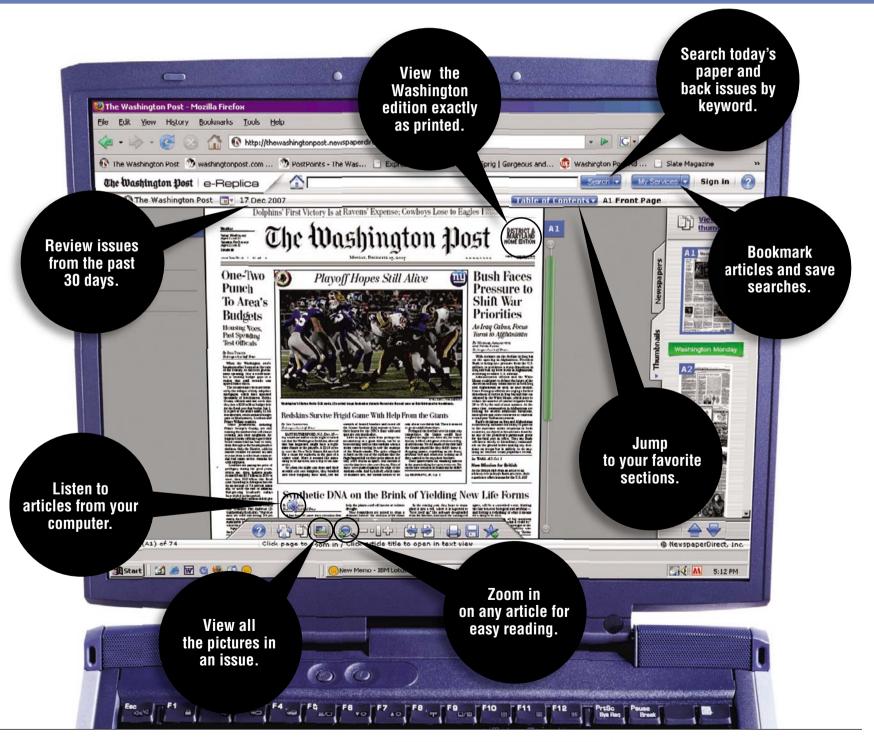


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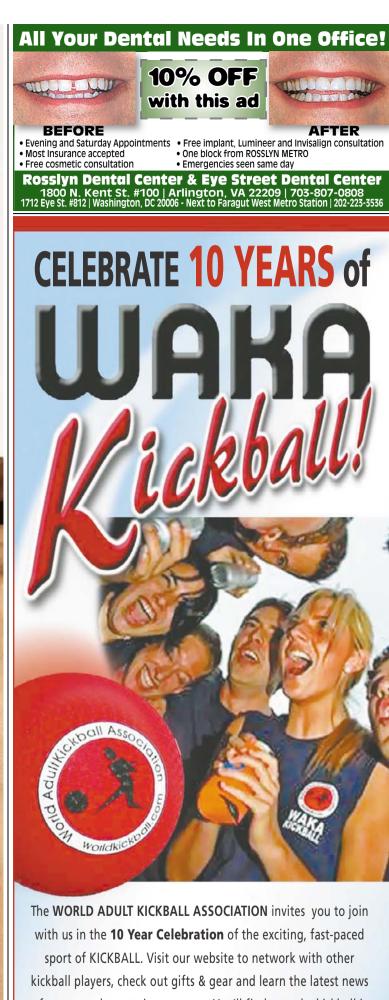


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* TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

Lifestyles

Some Hawaiians like the thrill of living near an active volcano

As fiery lava pours down Kilauea volcano in Kalapana, Hawaii, toward Jean Olson's lonely wooden house, incinerating everything in its path, there's no place she'd rather be.

"Why would I live here if I didn't like it? I have the best view of anyone in town," said Olson, who lives just over a mile from fountains of glowing lava spewing into the ocean. "Either she comes or she doesn't. If she comes, we'll pick up

and leave."

Thousands of visitors per day come to nearby Hawaii Volcanoes National Park to watch Kilauea erupt, something it has been doing for a quarter-century. But some residents live with the boiling lava every day and revel in the notion that their homes and lives are subject to the whims of Earth's awesome underground forces.

The danger has become clearer in recent weeks. Earlier this month, a two-block-wide swath of lava burned through abandoned homes and reached the ocean. And the first gas explosion at Kilauea's peak since 1924 scattered gravel onto a tourist lookout, road and trail before daybreak last week, injuring no one but spreading fear.

Olson and her scattered neigh-

NSIDE

Kylie plans to announce her marriage | 42



Blog Log: Celebrity baby pics are silly **40**

Discussions: Architects of the stadium chat | 40



HOT SPOT: Jean Olson stands outside her home, which is about a mile away from an active volcano in Kalapana, Hawaii.

bors have built houses atop blasted land of hardened black crust where previous neighborhoods were destroyed by lava in 1990. Most get their power from solar panels, their water from rain and some of their food from gardens. Until a new lava viewing area began drawing crowds a few weeks ago, they lived in relative isolation.

"This is heaven on Earth," said Edmund Orian, who is building a house by hand out of lava rocks in Kalapana. "Living near a volcano keeps you aware that God is in control. If the lava comes, we can always move."

Kilauea has not been the kind of volcano that shoots lava from its summit into the sky, causing destruction for miles around.

Instead, it has been a shield volcano, or one that oozes lava from fissures in its sides, giving residents at least a few hours' warning before it reaches their property. An estimated 8,500 people live in the Pahoa-Kalapana area at the volcano's base on the Big Island.

In the 25 years of Kilauea's lat-

est eruption, lava has not directly caused any deaths, according to National Park Service rangers.

Brenda Quihano witnessed the volcano obliterate her family's home in 1984, but she wants to move back if Kilauea ever calms down. She now lives in a neighborhood about 15 miles away, and the approaching lava doesn't scare her.

"If you worry about something and it doesn't happen, you look like a fool," said Quihano. "I'm more scared of people than I am a volcano." MARK NIESSE (AP)

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MUSIC

Bohemian Rhapsodies

The East Village Opera Company is a cover band. But rather than tackling Prince and Grand Funk Railroad, the group does rock versions of jams by Mozart and his ilk. The EVOC performs at Lisner on Saturday, and Bob Massey spoke with vocalist Tyley Ross, I coming up





SOUND BETS

Video Jukebox

If you haven't been checking out our daily Sound Bets posts, you've missed a lot of great new music this week alone, from the known (Counting Crows, Everlast) to the gonna-be-known (Ungdomskulen, Jamie Lidell). Turn on, tune in, and drop out of the workweek. | ONLINE NOW

Nationals Park Preview

Brand-new Nationals Park opens its gates to fans this weekend, and we have a handy guide that tells stadium-goers how it was built, how to get there and what's onthemenu. Head to Read express.com/national spark to plan your day at the ballpark. ONLINE NOW



comment board

Even though I really can't stand the deluge of tourists who

descend [on the Mall], I try to take pictures every year of the blossoms."

COMMENTER AK. WHO ADDED. "[THEY'RE] ABSOLUTELY BREATHTAKING AT POINTS. THEY MAKE GREAT THANK-YOU CARDS OR THINKING-OF-YOU CARDS!"



my life and have learned to embrace the spring cherry blossoms' beckoning of the tourists in D.C.'

COMMENTER GARY, WHO ADDED "THE CITY'S BEAUTY IS AT ITS BEST WITH THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS AND THE THRONG OF TOURISTS MAKE IT MORE VIBRANT AND LIVELY."



"Unfortunately, no, since I work downtown. I may even go see them myself, since I've never bothered before. Though that would be an awesome excuse for calling out of work."

COMMENTER JAIME SERBIN. RESPONDING TO THURSDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "DO YOU PLAN TO AVOID DOWNTOWN TO MISS THE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL'S CROWDS?"

policenter Yesterday's Results as of 5 p.m.

DO YOU PLAN TO AVOID **DOWNTOWN TO MISS** THE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL'S CROWDS?

"They do get to live in a celebrity's uterus rent-free for a whopping nine months. They're like tiny little Kato

SOCIALITELIFE.BUZZNET.COM POKES FUN AT THE BOOMING BUSINESS OF CELEBRITY BABY PIC-TURES, ADDING, "IT ONLY MAKES SENSE THAT BABIES SHOULD ACTUALLY EARN THEIR EXISTENCE."



"We should have stayed home then, and we should stay home now. Barring that, I won't be watching [one] second of the Olympics."

BELOWTHEBELTWAY.COM COMPARES THE 2008 BEIJING SUMMER OLYMPICS TO THE 1936 BERLIN GAMES. IN WHICH THE U.S. COMPET-ED WHILE GERMANY WAS RULED BY NAZI LEADER ADOLPH HITLER.



"I STARTED THIS THING as a

way of getting information out to the community, and I feel like it has become an anchor around my neck. At the end of the day, this is nothing more than a narcissistic pulpit, and I think it is time to say adios."

OFFSEVENTH.ORG IS SHUTTING DOWN HIS SHAW NEIGHBORHOOD BLOG

"[IN] 'THE PRINCESS BRIDE,'

[there is] an amazing device that could suck years off your life. My building's 'Pit of Despair' has a similar life-shortening contraption: dry-

SHANNONSTAMEY.BLOGSPOT.COM IS FED UP WITH THE LAUNDRY FACILITIES IN HER APARTMENT BUILDING

"I AM A TAXICAB hater. I will walk two miles, drunk, through the ghetto at 3 a.m. before taking a taxi. I will wait a half-hour in the Metro station for the last train before I flag down a checker."

FARMFRESHMEAT.COM CONSIDERS CABS A RIP-OFF, ADDING, "IT ALWAYS FEELS LIKE YOU ARE GETTING SCREWED.

Discussions

Ballpark Design

Architects JOE SPEAR and JIM **CHIBNALL** of HOK Sport were online Thursday to discuss their design for Nationals Park, their goals for the stadium and the challenges in making those plans a reality.

Did you all ever consider building a stadium with the Anacostia River located just beyond the outfield seats? PNC Park and AT&T Park have similar ballparks, and fans in San Francisco like to swim and go boating in McCovey Cove during games. If there was consideration

to build a similar ballpark in D.C., then why did it not happen?

After studying the site extensively, we considered it, but we decided to site the ballpark to the north so that fans could have a view toward the monuments. No other ballpark can have that kind of a view.

Nationals Park is very majestic. But what made you go with the design you have instead of a more retro park like Camden Yards?

The site really dictated the design and because the site is not situated amid a brick warehouse district like Camden Yards or Coors Field are, what's been thought of as typical ballpark architecture in some other cities just didn't fit for D.C. The ballpark responds to the monumental city and the national city.

Baseball is about continuity with the past. What features of previous ballparks in D.C. did you incorporate into your design?

You'll see a notch in left center field as homage to Griffith Stadium. The angled geometry in the lower bowl versus the curvilinear geometry of the upper bowl is reflective of both Griffith Stadium and RFK, respectively.

> **TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS:** Washington Post film critic Ann

Hornaday suggests what to see at the cinema at I2:30 p.m. | washingtonpost.com/ discussions.



PREPARE FOR MONSTER CROWDS DOWNTOWN. The city will be bustling with people this weekend, with the start of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, the running of the National Marathon, the Smithsonian Kite Festival on the National Mall and the opening of the new Nationals stadium.

Bizarro | Dan Piraro

I had no idea it was Opposite Day when I asked my plastic surgeon for a cute, tiny nose. On the plus side, he had to pay me \$12,000 for the surgery.

Cornered | *Mike Baldwin*



"Paper, plastic, pockets or purse?"

Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan



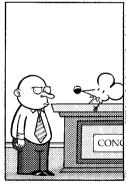




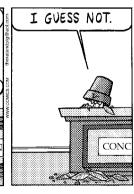


Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



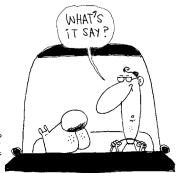






The Duplex | Glenn McCoy







Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You may feel that it is perfectly acceptable to do things vour own way, but though no one may complain, long-term dangers may arise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Quality control is likely to be an issue before the day is out. You will have to put your foot down and insist that those around you follow the rules

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Someone will have reason to congratulate you before the day is out. Later, a friend will want to take time out with you to explore an unusual ontion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You may be quite vulnerable, and it is advised that you avoid anything that will bring you face-toface with certain aspects of your past.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You may not be feeling up to par, but it is most likely your attitude, rather than your health, that is in need of some attention and repair.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You're going to want to make an early start — but not, by any means, premature. Timing is everything right now, and you must use your head.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You're likely to receive an important message early in the day that will shape your decisionmaking at this time and in the immediate future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Are you ready to vary your routine in favor of something that could be a great success or a resounding failure? You must take the risk.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Do not find yourself putting all your eggs in one basket. There are risks to be taken, but only at the right time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Give yourselftime to get used to new circumstances before you try to pick up speed. Any premature action on your part will be risky. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Indecision can be quite hazardous to you; once you have your mind fixed on something, keep it there - or suffer the con-

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Seek and ve shall find — and it's likely that you'll have much of what you wanted by day's end. Don't think you have it all, however.

seguences

Letters

Don't Up Fares for Repairs

METRO IS TELLING US that it cannot afford repairs ("Metro Says It Can't Afford Repairs," March 27). Those of us who take Metro to and from work have seen a very large increase in our fares. At the time of Metro's fare increase proposals, I asked it to consider increasing the off-peak fares, but officials did not consider it. I also suggested charging for parking on weekends and holidays, but Metro didn't do that either. Now Metro is saying it cannot afford repairs. It is too much to ask those of us whose fares increased so much to pay even more. Metro needs to find another way to pay for repairs.

-KATHY SCHRECENGOST Manassas Park, Va.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters. PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216

Today in History

The U.S. Senate votes to censure President Jackson for removing federal deposits from the Bank of the United States.

The Spanish Civil War effectively ends as Madrid falls to the forces of Francisco Franco.

Novelist and critic Virginia Woolf dies in Lewes, England.

Athlete Jim Thorpe dies in Lomita, Calif.

69 Dwight D. Lise...... the 34th president of Dwight D. Eisenhower,



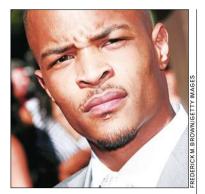
The scene at Three Mile Island in 1979.

the United States, dies in Washington at age 78

America's worst commercial nuclear accident occurs at the Three Mile Island plant near Middletown, Pa.



People



It doesn't make sense to us, either!

WRONG ORDER

Your Reward for Hours of **Community Service Is Jail**

Rapper T.I. pleaded guilty Thursday to federal weapons possession charges and will receive a sentence that includes prison time after he completes a period of community service. In the year that he is awaiting sentencing, he must complete at least 1,000 hours of service. (AP)

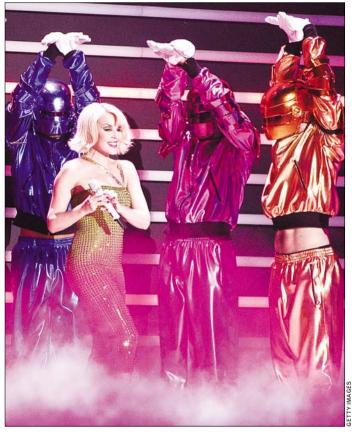
RORING

News Is So Dull We Fell Asleep Typing yyyt*@&nnnn



Actress PAM GRIER will be honored next month in North Carolina. She will receive a master of cinema award during the

RiverRun International Film Festival in Winston-Salem. (AP)



The Locomarriage

KYLIE MINOGUE will announce her marriage to her longtime boyfriend, Olivier Martinez, at a concert on May 12, according to Agence France-Presse. Said concert is planned for Prague, said organizers, (express)

CABINET

Secretary of **O**verinvested Father-in-**Laws Speaks**

Yankees slugger HIDEKI MATSUI is engaged to a 25-year-

old former office worker,

Reuters reported. On hearing the news, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura reportedly gave him this advice: "You often hear this in wedding speeches, but Government advice is better than none at all.

I would advise him to keep both eyes open before the marriage and afterwards keep one shut." "I think that's very

good advice," he added. "I always keep one eye closed, although my wife may keep both of hers shut." (EXPRESS)

Ma Convicted in Shooting

Rapper REMY MA was led out of a Manhattan courtroom Thursday, weeping and in handcuffs, after being convicted of shooting a woman outside a nightclub last summer. The defense had conceded that Remy Ma, whose real name



is Remy Smith, fired a shot toward a friend she suspected of stealing \$3,000 but said it was an accident. Smith,

26, faces up to 25 years in prison following her conviction. (AP)

WARNING

Procrastinating Divorcees Don't Impress the Judge

KIMORA LEE SIMMONS has moved on, but she took steps to make it official by filing for divorce from her husband of seven years, Russell Simmons. Although the couple separated in March 2006, Kimora Lee Simmons just filed divorce papers Tuesday in Los Angeles. (AP)



Divorce: When she gets around to it.

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area



62°





37°



54° / 32°



48° / 39°

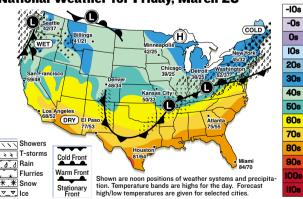


58° / 49°



65° / 49°

National Weather for Friday, March 28





Today Hi/Lo/W 75/55/pc

41/28/r

39/25/pc

48/34/c 83/7I/s

68/52/s

45/32/r

42/37/r

Atlanta

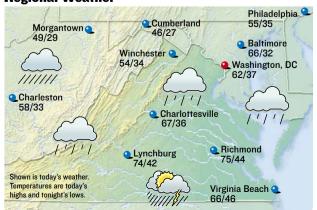
Chicago

Los Angeles

New York City

Dallas Denver

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2008

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur. **Temperature**

| ligh | |
|--------------------|-----|
| _ow Normal high | |
| Normal low | |
| Average humidity | 61% |
| | |

Precipitation

| 0.01" |
|-------|
| 2.76" |
| 3.17" |
| 8.30" |
| 7.87" |
| 9.12" |
| |

washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

D.C. Metro: Today, cloudy, rain. High 62. Wind north 7-14 mph. Tonight, cloudy, rain this evening. Low 37. Wind north 10-20 mph.

Sun and Moon

| Sunrise today Sunset tonight | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Moonrise today | 1:38 a.m. |
| Moonset today | IU:34 a.m. |

Mar 29







| | TTOILG OI | 1103 | |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Sat. Hi/Lo/W | City | Today Hi/Lo/W | Sat. Hi/Lo/W |
| 72/48/t | Amsterdam | 46/39/sh | 50/41/c |
| 42/28/pc | Athens | 61/56/r | 59/50/r |
| 49/34/pc | Berlin | 52/37/c | 50/36/pc |
| 75/63/t | Buenos Aires | 75/63/pc | 75/64/pc |
| 61/32/pc | Calgary | 37/18/pc | 26/I5/sf |
| 85/72/pc | Dublin | 50/37/sh | 46/39/r |
| 66/52/s | Geneva | 50/41/pc | 58/40/pc |
| 83/70/t | Moscow | 43/30/pc | 46/32/s |
| 44/34/s | Rome | 62/43/pc | 65/46/s |
| 84/62/pc | Sydney | 70/57/s | 75/55/pc |
| 48/35/sh | Tokvo | 57/45/c | 55/46/pc |

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

Puzzles

CROSSWORD | CIRCULAR FILE

ACROSS

- 1 Greenhorn 5 Curmudgeon
- 9 Set in motion 14 "Anything_ (Woody Allen film)
- 15 Brand name with
- an accent 16 Nullify the effect
- 17 Deteriorate 19 Caustic TV
- barmaid 20 Certain skipper
- 21 Give a new look to 23 Strongly suspect
- 24 Place for refining metal
- 26 Dance from Cuba 28 City on the
- **IJsselmeer** 30 Three miles,
- roughly 33 Buzzing with
- activity 37 Air show maneuver
- 39 Manage, as a bar 40 Salon job,
- informally 41 Sub builders
- 42 Tepee wall

- 43 Shipboard mop 44 Like some testimony
- 45 Mortise fit 46 Came after
- 48 Rubella symptom 50 Avoid
- commitment 52 Museum head 57 Ailurophobe's
- dread 59 Endured (with
- "through") 61 Wartlike protuberance 62 Nebraska's capital
- before Lincoln 64 BBs and lower
- 66 Misrepresent 67 Shawm's descendant
- 68 Exemplar of redness 69 Didn't just sit and
- wonder 70 Incredible story 71 Goofs up

DOWN

- 1 Earthworm eaters
- 2 Break-in indicator 3 Bone of contention

- 4 No longer embryonic
- 5 Enclosed in a wooden box
- 6 Straight off the butcher block
- 7 Food thickener 8 Seller's need
- 9 Grow into 10 Chapter of history
- 11 GI of GIGO 12 "Survivor"
- setting, sometimes 13 Unmixed, to a
- mixologist 18 Word in a script
- 22 Numbs 25 Harder to come by
- 27 Get into hot water?
- 29 Cavity site, often 31 Backtracking computer command
- 32 First family home 33 Vaulted projection on a
- building 34 In stitches 35 It's heard on a

basketball court 36 Suffuse

- 38 Pale purple 41 Side-sten
- 45 Beat rhythmically 47 "Early Sunday Morning" artist Hopper
- 49 Like the Titanic 51 "Have a nice

time!"

- 53 Mud brick 54 Fork wielder
- 55 Wiser partner 56 Some score
- marks 57 Kind of leaves
- 58 Obadiah preceder 60 Band's big brass
- 63 Weed digger 65 Easter's
- beginning

Yesterday's Solution

| ¹s | ²E | 3 T | ⁴Н | | ۴R | ۴E | ٦G | ⁸ A | °L | | ⁵R | ¹¹ U | ¹² S | ¹³ T |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 14 L | c | R | Е | | 15 E | х | - | ۲ | Е | | ¹⁶ I | N | Т | 0 |
| 17 A | R | _ | Α | | 18 B | U | R | s | Α | | ¹⁹ C | R | c | D |
| ²⁰ G | 0 | 0 | D | ^{2}W | Α | L | L | 0 | F | 22C | Н | 1 | N | Α |
| | | | ²³ B | - | Т | Т | Υ | | | ²⁴ L | Е | G | G | Υ |
| 25 M | ²⁶ A | ²⁷ N | Α | G | Е | | | ²⁸ A | ²⁹ P | Е | s | | | |
| 30 E | ٧ | Е | z | | | ³¹ B | ³² A | s | R | Α | | 33 B | 34 R | 35 A |
| ³⁶ G | 0 | 0 | D | 37 B | 38 A | R | R | - | Е | R | 39 R | Е | Е | F |
| ⁴⁰ A | w | N | | ⁴¹ L | L | Α | М | Α | | | ⁴² E | Т | N | Α |
| | | | ⁴³ F | ı | Α | Т | | | 44 L | 45 E | s | s | 0 | R |
| ⁴⁶ A | ⁴⁷ D | ⁴⁸ M | Α | N | | | ⁴⁹ S | ⁵⁰c | 0 | т | Т | | | |
| 51 G | 0 | 0 | D | G | ⁵² R | ⁵³ A | N | D | Р | Α | R | ⁵⁴ E | 55 N | ⁵⁶ T |
| 57 A | Z | Т | Е | | ⁵⁸ A | w | Α | R | Е | | ⁵⁹ O | L | - | 0 |
| ⁶⁰ P | 0 | 0 | R | | ⁶¹ G | 0 | F | 0 | R | | ⁶² O | s | L | 0 |
| 63 E | R | R | s | | ⁶⁴ A | L | υ | М | s | | 65 M | Е | Е | к |

| | | | | | | _ | | - | | _ | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| ١ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
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| ı | | | | | 28 | | | 29 | | 30 | | | | 31 | 32 |
| | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | | | 37 | | 38 | | | 39 | | | |
| l | 40 | | | | | 41 | | | | | | 42 | | | |
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| ¥ | 57 | 58 | | | 59 | | | 60 | | 61 | | | | | |
| r E. PARKI | 62 | | | 63 | | | 64 | | 65 | | | | | | |
| EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER | 66 | | | | | | 67 | | | | | 68 | | | |
| :UII EU BI | 69 | | | | | | 70 | | | | | 71 | | | |
| - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

SAMURAI SUDOKU | HARD

Fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits I through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles. A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another.

Last Week's Solution

| 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | | | 6 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 | | | 2 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 3 | | | | 4 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 6 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 5 | | | | 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 8 |
| 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 | | | | 8 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 8 | | | | 9 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| 4 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| 2 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 1 |
| 8 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| | | - | | | Т | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 6 | Г | - | | - | | |
| | | | | | | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 1 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 9 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | | | | | | |
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Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits I through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Need more Su|do|ku?

Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.



44 | EXPRESS | 03.28.2008 | FRIDA

Bye, Bottle: Grape news — boxed wine gets quaffable and cheap | E9

HOW TO SHOP, ENTERTAIN, DRESS, DECORATE AND OTHERWISE IMPROVE YOURSELF AND YOUR HOME



faceatime

■ Russian bear burgers, Caribbean cow-skin soup and Filipino worms are among the wild, sometimes wiggly dishes Andrew Zimmern devours on the Travel Channel's "Bizarre Foods" (Tues., 10 p.m.). The well-traveled, will-eat-anything chef-writer talks about culinary journeys March 29 at 1 p.m. during the Adventures in Travel Expo at the Washington Convention Center (Adventureexpo.com).

Where are you now, and what's the last thing you ate?

I'm in Samoa. Last night, we took a harrowing ride on a pontoon boat that was probably made when Grant was president. We went to a deserted island and shot fruit bats there. We roasted them whole over an open fire.

What did the bats taste like?

Delicious. It's like duck, but with a sour gaminess. The first time you eat bat, all you can think of is Halloween and vampires. But, really, it's just the psych-up factor.

Were a picky eater as a kid?

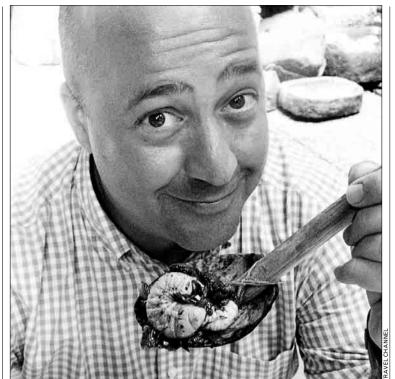
No. I grew up in a family where, if we were on a ski trip somewhere, my dad would drive us five hours away in a snowstorm to a great restaurant he'd heard about. Most parents were looking for burger bars.

That sounds like your mission on the show — to go off the beaten path in search of food.

I want to go to the last subway stop and dive into culture mouth-first.

You eat some things that look awful. How much of it tastes bad?

About 90 percent is delicious. Ten percent, I don't get it, but I'm glad I tried it. Some things that look great aren't. In Ecuador, I saw people drinking what looked like tea with jelly in it. Turns out, it had strands of aloe in it so long they could choke you, and it tasted like bitter medicine.



Andrew Zimmern

"BIZARRE FOODS" HOST, TATER TOT LOVER

Which dish sounds gross but isn't?

Coconut grubs. We found some last night and roasted them like marshmallows. They tasted like crispy chicken skin.

What's something Americans eat that foreigners might find bizarre?

Try explaining Kraft American Cheese singles to a desert nomad! I had that experience, and the guy looked at me like I was crazy. Like, "Why would you let cheese dry and rot, then put it in little plastic sheets?"

What food do you crave when you get home from these exotic spots?

My wife makes a tater tot hot dish that is second to none. It's got layers of tater tots and ground beef. It's spectacular when I come home "The first time you eat bat, all you can think of is Halloween and vampires."

from a week of eating seal guts and whale blubber.

Have you picked up any cooking techniques in your travels?

Dropping things into a wood-burning fire — many cultures do that. And I love making seafood salads. The other day I was in a boat, and we caught a tuna that we chopped up. The captain mixed it with coconut milk, salt and lime. Amazing.

After logging all these miles, do you have any travel tips?

Pack light, yet bring everything. And when you most miss home, it's great to have an extra book or some DVDs — the stuff that provides creature comforts.

JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

SWEET HOME DC

Nationals Park Special Section

Get a first look inside the Nationals' new home in a special section of today's Washington Post. Dazzling photos and graphics put you in the seats, on the field, and inside the clubhouse.

It's like a personal V.I.P tour of Nationals Park, exclusively in today's Washington Post.



XP058 5x5

goods | Styles



Wedding Flashers

GROOMSMEN'S TIES ARE OFTEN THE UGLIEST accessories of any nuptial party, except maybe those godforsaken, ribbon-trimmed elastic garters.

The new Northern Virginia-based Vintageknot.com gives big-day dudes a sleeker—and perhaps more bride-pleasing—option via custom cravats (\$75 each) that can be ordered in fabrics from exotic Chinese silk brocade (pictured) and hot-hued cotton to preppy seersucker.

Blossom Bling

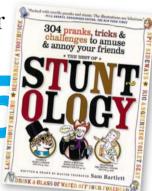
LET THOSE TOURISTS at the Tidal Basin be seen in their T-shirts depicting pandas cavorting in groves of Pepto Bismol-hued cherry trees. A hand-painted wooden bangle (\$10, Nationalcherr yblossomfestival.org) by D.C.'s own Yinibini shows our pink points of civic pride in a subtle, pretty way. It'd go nicely with a pale sundress and doesn't scream, "Which way to Madame Tussauds?"

Prank You Later

* APRIL FOOL'S PRANKS can be more than Saran Wrap on the toilet. Learn from "The Best of Stuntology" (Sam Bartlett, \$13, Workman) how to puzzle/horrify friends with spurting clouds of foam, cascades of hidden marbles in a medicine cabinet, and

rejiggered kitchen-sink sprayheads.

Grab Bag





Invisible Goodness

THE "I AM NOT A PAPER CUP" cup is exactly what it says it is. Though it looks like landfill-polluting cardboard and plastic, it's actually porcelain and silicone that's containing your overpriced coffee-related beverage. But is there any point in being virtuous if no one can tell? What, do we seem like college ethics professors to you?



EVER SEEN A BABY? If it had something leather on its feet, it was probably wearing Robeez infant shoes. The colorful, moccasin-like footwear's great for toddling indoors but doesn't offer much in the way of protection from the elements. New Robeez Tredz (\$42, Robeez.com) have the same cute motifs (we like the boys' shoes with the race-car flames) but with pragmatic, traction-y rubber soles.

dear **manolo**

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBLOGGER

As you know better than anyone, the hottest trend for spring is crazy sculptural heels. While I would love to have some outrageous Miu Miu pumps, I'm just a poor working girl. Can you recommend something outrageous that isn't outrageously priced? – CHRISSY

■ Manolo says, last fall, when Miuccia Prada introduced her crazy-colorful pumps with the flower-stem heel, anyone with half the eyeball could see that this was the next big trend. Soon, other shoe designers rushed to add various shiny baubles, trinkets, gew-



gaws, gimcracks and folderols to their spring shoes. And, lo, the fashion press thought it was good. ... The Manolo, not so much.

The problem isn't that the Manolo doesn't enjoy the occasional outrageously ornamented shoe - indeed, he does. The problem, however, is that so many of the designers do not do them well. For every wonderful Miu Miu teacup platform pump, there are 20 shoes that look as if the simpleton got busy with the glue gun and craft knife. Happily, there is John Fluevog, the one designer who was doing sculptural heels when sculptural heels were not trendy. Here is the Truly by Fluevog (\$241, Zappos.com), the colorful peep-toe pump with the fantastic heels and the not so outrageous price.



Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

ON THE COVER

Shoe, Reiss, \$305, I254 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-944-8565. Photo by Marge Ely.



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Styles | fashion



to the bottom of your shoes to get a grip on smooth sur-

faces, like notoriously slick Metro station tiles.

fashion Styles

The Milan of Maryland?

We plumb the hidden fashion depths of good old Annapolis

"Trust me — that diva woman is out there in Annapolis."

Those are the words of "Project Runway" winner Christian Siriano. Hear that, M Street shopper with the Gucci glasses and Balenciaga bag? Strut those oversize accessories right off that Georgetown sidewalk and onto the brick roads of downtown Annapolis. (Wear flats, though — the porous old streets weren't really made for heels.) The town may have a bad rap for its resident sailor style (worn khakis, a miscellaneous light beer cap and copious amounts of zinc oxide), but "Project Dudway" it ain't. Here are the Annapolitian trendsetting shops that deserve both a Tim Gunn nod and an influx of D.C. customers. Sail into the world of fierce! ROBYN MINCHER

Brown Eyed Girl

There aren't too many waves in the Chesapeake Bay, but this adorable surf shop is making them just offshore. Funky jewelry, flowery summer dresses and matching flip-flops set the scene for a day on the bay (or the Potomac). Billabong and Roxy garb is abundant, but it's the store's own graphic tees that deserve a Van Morrison anthem



BAY WATCH: At the Pink Crab, preppy looks harmonize with the eponymous hue. The modern, minimalist DIVA, right, is Annapolis' gateway for designer looks.

Witty home décor includes Elvis sink strainers and wall hangings bearing inspirational quotes — though no lines from the book of Christian ... yet. One must wait to see "Oh, my God, I'm going to die of barfness" on canvas.

→ 10 Francis St.; 410-990-4475.

DIVA

DIVA is the harbor for global garments sailing straight from highend Euro ports. Co-owner Laura Bevilacqua — who owns several Benettons in the Washington

area — regularly travels to Italy to scout for the shop's extensive, ever-changing array of club clothes, leather handbags and silk scarves. (Big names include Black Halo, J Brand, Christopher Deane and Mac & Jac.) It's the perfect place for Christian to debut his new line (hint, hint).

→ 30 Market Space; 410-280-9195.

Artini

Artini is definitely on its third martini, in the best way possible. Zebraprint tops, pink boas and bejeweled bags round out a collection of chic chaos that begs to be explored for

bags round out a collection of chic chaos that begs to be explored for kitsch's sake. What is that wine bottle wearing? It's the Krazy Koozie, a leopard-spotted, pink-feathered wine carrier created by local artist "T." Its claim to be the best Annapolis spot for hostess gifts is proven by a bartender apron reading "It's 5 o'clock somewhere." It's

always happy hour at Artini.

→ 40 Randall St.; 410-267-0040.

The Pink Crab

This blindingly rose-hued boutique features classic looks that mirror a nameless collection for which "Runway" finalist Jillian Lewis once worked (it rhymes with Lalph Rauren). Everything you need to look upscale at the beach is here

One must wait to see, "I'm going to die of barfness" on canvas,

— wrap and halter dresses, brightly patterned skirts, capris and an assortment of men's embroidered shorts that work on sea and dry D.C. land. Will designing for crustaceans be a challenge on the next "Project Runway" season?

→ 16 Market Space; 410-216-9994.

Treasure Island

Christian won "best dressed" at his high school prom in his Naptown days. Chances are he got his inspiration here, where satin, sparkly and shiny reign. More traditional than trendy, the ageless gowns work for events from homecoming to more grown-up occasions; brands include Jovani, Scala and Faviana. And while Christian was manhandled by his young client during the "Runway" challenge, this top prom-gown destination is slightly more equipped to handle teen tirades.

→ 198 Main St.; 410-267-1500.









(1) Jovovich-Hawk's aqua-and-mustard hoodie has a little spandex for a sleek fit. (\$18, Target) (2) We know we put a lot of Converse in this spot. We can't help it. They're ... what we bought. This is the thankfully not-obscene "Bathroom Wall" pattern. (\$47, Zappos.com) (3) Therapy Systems' at-home facial peel kit was recommended to us for eternal youth. (\$85, Therapysystems.com) (4) Yes, No and Maybe T-shirts have all your swiftly changing moods covered. (\$35 each, 2ktshirts.com)





PURGE AND DO GOOD

Bring used women's business clothes to the Capitol South Metro station April 2, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. for a Send a Suit drive for welfare-to-work participants.

THE BAG LADY

Designer Lauren Merkin, known for bright clutches and dreamy hobos, shows her merch and chats with fans at CUSP Georgetown, April 3, 6-8 p.m. 3030 M St. NW, 202-625-0898.

Styles | fashion





fashion | Styles



(I) Though shore-like in style, Rafe's sandals with stone accents probably shouldn't reach the beach — save 'em for a long sundress. (\$245, Piperlime.com) (2) A jersey dress in cobalt or violet could say "Ciao, baby" to Missoni's sky-high chevron-print heels. (\$675, Sassanova, 1641 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-471-4400) (3) Flower-powered but more ladylike than hippie, Giuseppe Zanotti's pumps punch up jeans or a black frock. (\$675, Sassanova) (4) Marilyn Monroe - red leather perches atop a Lucite heel on Corso Como's futuristic beauties. (\$170, Wild Women Wear Red, 1512 U St. NW; 202-387-3153) (5) Mod yellow pumps from Bettye Muller rock with a full skirt or dark denim capris. (\$375, Sassanova) (6) A sock-like, stretchy fabric upper makes groovy gladiators soft and chic. (\$58, Wild Women Wear Red) (7) Color-blocking, another big spring trend, shows up on satin peep-toe flats by Pour La Victoire. (\$175, Wild Women Wear Red) (8) Do ballerinas go to Palm Beach? Nine West's flirty satin skimmers in tropical coral suggest they must. (\$79, Piperlime.com) (9) Like **Spartacus but shiny**, leather gladiator sandals by Matt Bernson expand the Roman fashion empire again. (\$170, Piperlime.com) (10) Comfy but far from frumpy, Kenneth Cole Reaction wedges feature foot-cooling punch-outs. Wear with shorts or a mini, but, please, don't pair them with more yellow — you'll look like Big Bird.

Season's Feetings

Bits of pink are popping up all over town, and we don't mean cherry blossoms: They're toes. Freed from winter's boots and socks, lower extremities should find their shoe options nearly endless this season. "By spring, you are sick of covering your feet," says Marion Warner, manager of footwear den Sassanova. For gals, warm-weather ways to reveal, not conceal, tootsies include brights (lemonyellow, kiwi-green), powerhouse platforms and goddessy gladiator sandals. And for those afraid of heights, skyhigh stilettos are on the way down, down, down. "We're seeing lots of flats and mid-heels," says Warner. Besides picking up a fresh pair of leather flip-flops or mandals, dudes can update their shoe closets with canvas slip-ons or light-colored lace-ups. If that doesn't put a spring in Vour step, nothing will. ASHLEY JOY PARKER

Styles | entertaining

Keep Blades Cutting-Edge

I absolutely adore the set of knives I bought for a course at L'Academie de Cuisine. I've been trying to keep them sharp by running them over the honing steel periodically, but how

often are you supposed to do
it? And how often should
you get them sharpened?
If I were to buy one of
the at-home sharpeners, could I do it more
often without harming
my beloved knives?

You should get in the habit of running them across the honing steel just about every time you use them; that's what I do. It'll keep them sharp longer. And the frequency question depends, of course, on use, but also on, well, how dull they get. So, try it out, doing what we did: Can you hold a piece of typing paper by a corner and use the other hand to slash at it with a knife,

and does the knife easily grab and slice without tearing? Can you cut through a very ripe tomato without pressing and squeezing it? If not, even after running your knife

> across the honing steel, you need to sharpen. The athome sharpeners we liked, used correctly,

> > should not harm your knives.

I have a Chef's Choice electric sharpener. The problem I have is following the curve of the knife. Once I dulled the tip of a knife. Do you have any tips on how to pull a knife through without doing this?

You should be able to just gently raise the angle of your hand as you pull the blade through, mimicking the curve of the blade, but it sounds like maybe you're going too slowly and



Can't slice a ripe tomato without squeezing? It's time to get your knife sharpened.

accidentally held the knife at its tip? Instructions for the CC said to spend about four seconds on each side (and on each of the three coarseness levels for a badly dulled knife).

0

The staff of the Washington Post Food section goes Free Range on Food every Wed-

nesday at 1 p.m. at washingtonpost.com/ liveonline. Catch up on recipes, cooking trends and more. Six months ago I brought knives to Sur La Table to be sharpened. I put them away and didn't try them out for a few months. When I did. I was surprised that they did not feel any sharper than before. I can run my finger over the blade and not cut it. Do you think that old knives just can't be sharpened again like new? I'm trying to stop wincing at the thought of your running your finger over the blade. It reminds me too much of my first day with a new knife set in cooking school, and we made borscht, and there was a stray cube of beet stuck to the blade of my ginormous Wusthof cook's knife (10 inches, and wide), and without thinking I flicked my pinky across the blade to get that pesky beet off. The class came screeching to a halt for obvious reasons. I'll stop there. Anyhoo, to your question, you should take those knives back — although when you say you put them away, I'm also wondering about your storage system. They weren't banging around in a drawer against other knives, were they?



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Drinking Inside the Box

Cardboard can hold fine wine just as well as a glass vessel

Unless you're in the third grade, beverages sold in cardboard containers probably play a minimal role at your parties. And we're guessing that the words "boxed wine" conjure up some not-so-fond memories of Franzia at frat fêtes.

But vino that's poured from a package, not uncorked, has suddenly become sophisticated. Dozens of vintners are producing quality wines in boxes, not bottles. And if you're not hip to the squares (or rectangles), you may be missing out on drinkable, affordable libations.

"You've got to sometimes step sideways and realize that it's not the way the wine is delivered," says Jim Barker, president/founder of the Washington Wine Academy, an Alexandria nonprofit group that organizes local tastings.

Why have boxed wines broken out of the cheap-as-dirt category? It's partly because more mid- to high-end brands, including Peter Vella and Delicato, have started marketing varietals packaged in 3-liter containers. Boxes, roughly the size of a sack of flour, hold about four standard (750 ml) bottles worth of vino. Wine Business Insider calls them one of the industry's biggest growers, and A.C. Nielsen found that sales of the 3 liters grew by more than 46 percent between



FROM CARDBOARD TO CUP: Just because that chardonnay or merlot comes from a box doesn't mean it won't taste luscious.

2006 and 2007.

Though decent boxed wine — particularly types not meant to be cellared for years (roses, whites) — is common in Europe and Australia, non-swill containers didn't really flood the American market until about five years ago.

One of the first people to market it in the U.S., Ryan Sproule founded Monterey, Calif.-based Black Box Wines in 2002 after trying a similar product at a dinner in England. "They served boxed wine," Sproule says. "People wouldn't do that here. I was expecting the wine to be not-so great, but it was really good."

Now he sells eight varieties of Black Box, from a crisp chard to a juicy cab, for \$20 to \$25 per box at stores across the country, including many in D.C., Maryland and Virginia. And there are 15 other brands now being produced in

the U.S., some by big-name vineyards like Kendall Jackson and Beringer. Target even has a "Wine Cube" of single-serving Tetra-Pak boxes (think adult Juicy Juice). The tiny guys (\$8 for four) seem ready to stick a straw in, or at least go on a picnic or camping trip.

And, frankly, there's something alluringly decadent about a vessel of vino that simply opens with the

"People have been taught that good wine comes in a bottle."

push of a button or a rip of foil.

Unlike bottles (which must be imbibed within a few days), boxed stuff stays good for a month or more, since it's stored in airtight plastic bags inside the boxes. Slurping from one is also eco-friendly, since the environmental costs associated with making and transporting glass are higher than cardboard.

But the vino-pack trend won't squash the high-end wine market anytime soon. "Box packaging isn't meant for aging fine wine," says Roger Dooley of Boxwines.org. So, don't put that box in your cellar. "They're intended for consumption shortly after you buy them."

Dooley thinks that boxed wine will become more accepted in the U.S. over time. "It isn't that there's a biological aversion to this type of packaging," he says. "People have just been taught over the years that good wine comes in a bottle."

Want to pour boxed wine at a bash? Find it at Total Wine, which sells about 10 different brands, or at Whole Foods, which just started stocking a few types. You might do a blind tasting, comparing sips by taste, not container shape, please.

That's what Sproule does at wine shows, pouring Black Box into unmarked glasses. His 2004 Merlot even scored a gold medal at the prestigious San Francisco International Wine Competition, competing against bottled stuff.

That's pretty intoxicating for a beverage once shoved to the back of the dorm-room fridge.

KATIE ABERBACH (EXPRESS)

tasting & testing

Wine Cube Merlot 2006

(Target, \$8 for 4250 ml boxes)
Our panel of four started out with a doozy, a biting red that "smells better than it tastes," according to one tester.
Another said she'd rather drink this stuff than swill a cup of beer at a Caps game — score one for the Cube. But overall, testers found the deep red liquid a not-so-yummy ringer for Trader Joe's Three Buck Chuck.

Black Box 2006 Monterey County Chardonnay

(Blackboxwines.com, \$20-\$25)
This well-rounded white was proclaimed "light" and "crisp" by our sippers. One tester thought it lacked the oaky taste that she despised in other Chards. The wine also earned points for leaving us feeling refreshed and cheerful. Our overall favorite.

Black Box 2006 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon

(Blackboxwines.com, \$20-\$25)
"Not bad at all" were the first words
out of one tester's mouth, just before
she, um, drained her cup. We detected
subtle hints of cherry and vanilla, with
a "very smooth" finish, though the
stuff had a somewhat watery consistency. Overall, mostly thumbs-up.

Three Thieves Bandit 2005 Pinot Grigio

(Whole Foods, \$10 for 4 250 ml boxes) Like the other white we tasted, this Pinot was fresh and just a little fruity. But the beverage didn't lose points for its mild taste. One slurper thought it would go well with spicy snacks, while a self-described white-wine hater said he would definitely swill this stuff again. K.A.

Styles | people



What's the best April Fool's Day prank you've seen?

MADAM'S ORGAN | MARCH 26

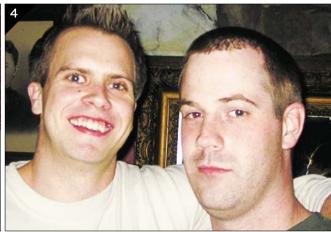
1. "I sent a pop-up message to my boss from 'HR' saying 'inappropriate material has been detected on your office e-mail. Please contact IT," Adam Desilva, center, with Brian Gathing, left, and Gabriel Laizer. 2. "I told my mom I was pregnant," Shan Williams, with Suvi West. 3. "An e-card that said, 'Just to avoid confusion, I'm going to wait until tomorrow to tell you I'm pregnant," Ayse lkizler, with Jimmy Gadner. 4. "My roommate sent me a telegram from a 'collection agency' saying I owed an old employer \$800," Adam Gardner, right, with Ryan Miller. 5. "A week before my sister's bat mitzvah, I told my mom I'd shaved my head," Andrew Lerner, with Pamela Kasenetz. 6. "My mom jumped out at me in this weird old-man mask," Matt Steil, with Marcia Macedo. 7. "I gave my boss two weeks' notice," Joel Jean-Baptist. 8. "Saran Wrap on the toilet," Kelly Buckingham. 9. "We tin-foiled everything in my buddy's cube," Daniel Sherman. 10. "My friend stuffed her shirt like she was pregnant and went to Cafe Citron and drank and smoked all night," Hannah Conlon. BRYN LANSDOWNE





"I sent a message to my boss from 'HR' [about material on his computer]."









c"My mom jumped out at me in this weird old-man mask."









BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS



Craig Ballard, **Targee Ward**

Craig, 39, is a marketing director. Targee, 36, is a project manager. They live in Laurel.

- The Main Event: A formal ceremony and reception in Salisbury, Md., on June 28. Targee will walk down the aisle to Natalie Cole's rendition of "Unforgettable.'
- How They Met: A mutual friend's wedding in Baltimore.
- First Impressions: "She was lovely and serene." "He was very attractive in his blue pin-stripped suit."
- First Date: Dinner at Dave & Buster's,

followed by the film "Four Brothers."

- How He Proposed: Targee thought heading to her mother's Eastern Shore house for the holidays was a spontaneous trip. But when Craig popped the question on Christmas Day in front of both of their families, she realized "he had planned it all along."
- Their Song: "With You I'm Born Again" by Billy Preston and Syreeta.
- Making It Unique: In lieu of lighting a unity candle, they'll have a unity sand ceremony. Craig will pour orange sand and Targee will pour pink sand in a crystal heart-shaped vase to signify their lasting relationship.
- Stupidest Fight: "I was rewiring some light switches in her house. She wanted to prove I was doing it wrong."
- With an Infinite Budget ... They'd wed in the tropics with all travel costs for their friends and family covered.

"After our first conversation, I said, 'This lady will be my wife.'"



A Touchdown of Love

After meeting JENNIFER WALKER at Georgetown grad school orientation in 2003. PATRICK MCLAUGHLIN took a chance: "She told me she was a big football fan, so I invited her to come to Rhino Bar to watch the Eagles game," he says. "She was the first girl I invited to watch football with me and my friends." She went, they hit it off, and it was two and a half years later that Pat proposed at sunset on Sunset Beach, N.C. "It's a good thing I didn't tell him I didn't even know Philadelphia had a football team until I met him," Jennifer admits. "We probably wouldn't be getting married." Well, the truth is out, and she needn't worry.

Eagles fan or not, she will walk down the aisle to Patrick on April 12. They'll wed in a Catholic ceremony in her hometown of Indianapolis before jetting off on a 10-day honeymoon in the Riviera Maya on Mexico's east coast.

Both Patrick, 29, and Jennifer, 27, graduate from the George Washington School of Medicine in May and will begin pediatric internships. They live in Courthouse.



Diana Martinez-Fonts, Benjamin **Newhart**

Diana, 29, is a health policy adviser. Ben, 29, is a U.S. Naval officer. They live in D.C.

- The Main Event: A Catholic ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel followed by a reception in Annapolis on April 5. Diana will walk to "Trumpet Voluntary" by Jeremiah Clarke.
- How They Met: At the wedding of Diana's college roommate. "She thought we would like each other," says Diana. "As it turns out, we did."
- First Date: A casual walk along the National Mall.
- How He Proposed: While vacationing with Diana's family in Cutchogue, N.Y., Ben suggested they walk to the beach. He asked her whether she was

"I moved to Japan within months of meeting in love writing letters."

Diana. We fell

happy, to which she said yes. "Before he got down on his knee, he said, 'If you think you're happy now, this is going to knock vour socks off." recalls Diana.

- Stupidest Fight: Ben says it was "over whose iPod was better." Diana says: "Our dumbest fights happen when we're both hungry."
- Their Song: "Everything" by Michael
- When He Knew: "I moved to Japan within months of meeting Diana. We fell in love writing letters, but I knew before I left that she was the only one for me."

James Cecere, Kristina Lee

James, 28, is a software engineer. Kristina, 26, is a legal assistant. They live in Fairfax.

- The Main Event: A Catholic ceremony followed by a semiformal reception in D.C. on March 29.
- Honevmoon: "I wanted Paris: he wanted Hawaii," says Kristina. "So, we compromised and picked an island in Europe: Ireland, the land of Guinness!"
- How They Met: "We met playing

kickball near the Washington Monument in the Washington Adult Kickball Association (WAKA) D.C. Potomac league," says James.

- First Date: After dinner at Clarendon's Woodside Grill, they walked and talked for hours, "I rode the Metro a little longer just so I could keep talking to him."
- How He Proposed: Last March, Kristina went to James' place expecting dinner and a movie. She found a living room



lit with candles and a DVD video montage of memorable couple moments. "The final frame read, 'With such great

- memories, why not a lifetime more?' I turned to find James bending down on one knee," says Kristina.
- Stupidest Fight: "We argued about whether James' dining room table was round or square."
- Pet Names: Kristina is "Sweet Tea," and James is "Tenderloin."
- Celebrating Heritage: "I'm going to carry my grandmother's rosary," says Kristina. "I also have a handkerchief from James' grandmother."
- When It Hit: "When we were at a friend's party, we were talking about things we wanted out of life. I realized I didn't want a life without him in it."



Getting Married? If you'd like to see your wedding or commitment ceremony in B.I.O., send your favorite informal photograph (wacky is fine, but please don't send a formal engagement shot), plus your names and ceremony date to weddings@readexpress.com. Please contact us at least one month before your wedding. We'll get back to you with some questions as your big day approaches.

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A publication of The Washington Post



Designed to Sell Stagers can spruce up a space and help attract buyers | E2

Pad Buying 101

Looking for a condo? A book dishes on the details of scoring one | **EIO**



Get Out, Granite! Luxury condos try new amenities like old bricks and fancy faucets | E5



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Spiffed Up For a Sale

Buyers won't bite? A pro staging can help you show and sell a condo faster

Your condo sits by a Metro station, and has two huge bathrooms and a great dishwasher. It's going to be a breeze to sell it, right? Maybe not. Besides the housing slump, sellers have to consider how their pads look and feel to potential buyers before putting up a "For Sale" sign.

That's why they're often hiring stagers. These design pros come in and organize, decorate and sometimes clean a property to make it look better to house-hunters.

"Real estate is all about marketing," says Lyric Turner, a professional stager. "If you have \$7,000 to invest in your property, you could renovate a bathroom or maybe refinish hardwood floors. But with the same money, you could also stage a three-bedroom house. It affects the entire property, not just one room. It's a total overhaul makeover."

Turner owns Red House Staging and Interiors in D.C. and is an accredited staging professional. She says staging gives sellers some control over the stressful experience of putting their pads on the market.



Red House Staging and Interiors took a condo from blah to beautiful by bringing in mod furniture, fresh linens and plants.

"Three things come into play when you're selling your home," says Turner. "Two of them you have control over; the third is the market. You can control the price, and you can control how it looks. The agents help

you determine the correct price. You are responsible for how it looks," Turner says.

For those not sold on the idea of spending money to have someone redecorate a house they're ready to leave, consider this: Stagedhomes.com, a Web site for the industry, claims the average time a U.S. property that hasn't been staged stays on the market is 161 days. Staged homes spend





an average of 33 days or less on the market.

That's what happened for 38-year-old Sarah Watkins, who owns U Street's Caramel Boutique. She tried to sell her vacant, sans-furniture 1,060-square-foot condo near the shop in 2005. But after a few months with no nibbles, she decided to rent the place out. Two years later, in September 2007, she was ready to try again.

"I talked to my agent about staging because I was desperate to sell," Watkins says. She hired Turner's company to assist. She suggested Watkins move most of her own furniture back into the empty space. Then Turner worked her magic, creating a more neutral feel to appeal to a wider range of potential buyers. "She strategically placed things in the kitchen," says Watkins. "There was a space between the top of the cabinets and the ceiling, and she put objects up there to make it feel more spacious." Other tricks included arranging furniture in ways that made the rooms look brighter and roomier.

In her new place across the street, Watkins says, "I lived with [nothing but] my futon and a chair for about five weeks, but it was worth it." Watkins had an offer on her one-bedroom condo within two weeks. She sold it for the asking price of \$449,000, and says she would ante up for a stager again. "Staging shows the buyer the potential," says Watkins. "When you walk into a vacant space, you can't always see the possibilities."

Stagers can also change the look and feel of still-occupied properties. "People are looking to put their own dreams into your home," says Realtor Steve Bachman of RE/MAX Gateway in Chantilly. "They're not buying your hobbies and photos."

Staging neutralizes a space, helping folks at an open house envision themselves living there someday. When showing clients a very lived-in property, Bachman tells customers: "When these folks leave, all of this stuff will be gone.' But if you stage it so people don't have to make that mental leap, that's much better."

Such quickie makeovers don't



THE CASE FOR SPACE: Placing furniture at angles and using both natural and electric light in rooms can make a property appear roomier and more appealing to buyers.

EXPERT ADVICE



One Pro Stager's Secrets to a Redo

On HGTV's "Get it Sold" (Wed. at 8:30 p.m.), designer and stager Sabrina Soto helps people transform their homes from cluttered to chic before putting them on the market. Here are her tips for how to whip your place into shape, whether you're selling it or just wanting to do some spring cleaning.

What's the No. 1 thing to do to freshen up a pad's looks? "Clean and clear out some furniture," says Soto. "That doesn't

cost anything, and it can make such a big difference."

"Have a friend come over and give you an honest opinion," she says. Often, you live in a place so long that pet odors, mold or even plain old dirt aren't noticeable to you — but a pal will likely recognize them right away.

"Don't cook in the house for a few hours before an open house," says Soto. "You never know what might turn someone off. They might not even like the smell of banana bread."

Making your home look as light and bright as possible makes it feel more appealing, too. "Open the curtains, put on all the lights," says Soto. "It'll make the rooms look bigger."

Before letting potential buyers walk through your pad, "remove anything political or religious," says Soto. A McCain campaign volunteer might not bid if he spots "Vote for Hillary" signs in the home. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

have to cost a whole mortgage payment, either. One can just go for an in-home consultation with a stager (typically \$150 to \$250 per hour). In an occupied house, a stager will make suggestions, perhaps recommending removing personal belongings or giving options for furniture placement for better flow. Often sellers take it from there, doing the work themselves.

Other times, sellers hire a stager to complete the whole project, which can cost more, depending on many factors. In a vacant space, pros may recommend furniture rental, which can add thousands of dollars to the bill. But sellers almost always recoup that money at the settlement table. A 2003 survey by HomeGain.com (an industry Web site) claims that sellers who stage will see an average return on investment of 343 percent.

Watkins spent about \$1,800 to stage her place. "It was more money I was putting out to sell it, but it sold, instead of me paying the mortgage while it stayed vacant," she says.

Many real estate agents believe so strongly in staging that they will

bring a stager in as part of their selling package. If sellers shy away from the expense, some agents are willing to work the cost into their contract so that owners don't pay until closing

Sometimes staging is simply about de-cluttering. Stager Laura Caron, who owns Positively Simplified (Positivelysimplified.com), a residential organizing company in Burke, Va., says like many things in life, presentation is everything. "You don't want to open the linen closet and see dishes in there. That sends the message that there is not enough room in the kitchen," she says.

"I tell people that whenever a buyer opens the door, it needs to look like a store," says Caron, who says staging something as small as a closet goes a long way toward luring potential buyers. "When closets are beautifully colorized, with nothing on the floor and everything sorted in length order, it sends a powerful message."

But there is such a thing as cleaning up your place too much before trying to unload it. Turner says kitchens are a good example.

CONTINUED ON E4





Staging to Sell

CONTINUED FROM E3

"There's been something driven into people about decluttering counter tops, and then they look too vacant. There's nothing left to catch the eye. Often, I tell people to add stuff back into the kitchen, like a decorative bowl or some nice cookbooks."

And what about those makeover TV shows like "Flip This House" and "Get It Sold" (see page 3)? Can they teach you how to DIY? Maybe. "I watch 'em all the time," says Realtor Lance Horsley of Long & Foster in D.C. "But being able to translate it into your own space is a different thing." Horsley says staging helps sellers hide a property's flaws and accent its strong points, which can be tough to do. "I think we can learn something from them, but I can't watch a program and then go back and redo my house."

Some people hire stagers even if they aren't selling. They may just like the clean look it produces or yearn to live in a house as fresh and uncluttered as a Pottery Barn catalog.

Turner says stagers often offer consultations to homeowners who have no intention of selling, but she warns, "The way you live in a home and the way you stage a home you're trying to sell are very different. Everything that is there in a staging is for decor, and that's not a practical way to live."

But she agrees there are ideas to take away from a stager, like how to minimize clutter, make a better traffic flow or create spa-like baths or colorful kitchens.

No matter why they consult stagers, homeowners who use stagers should be prepared to take the advice they're given. Turner says nothing is worse than a reluctant client.

"All I'm asking people to do is invest a little bit of money, maybe buy some new bedding, throw pillows and candles," she says. "I tell them to look at staging as an investment. You'll get to keep these things when you're done and take them to your new home." LYNN THORNE

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In a market where condominiums can sit empty for months, developers are still pushing ultra-

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expensive homes, betting that even in a slump, luxury will be snapped up.

But when it can sometimes seem that almost every building has adopted the "luxury" label, how can you tell the difference between the real thing and poshness that's only average? Are granite counter tops and stainless-steel appliances enough, or must the granite be imported and the appliances high-end?

"You know what they say about granite and stainless? That it's the new avocado," said Joseph Himali, principal broker at Best Address



"You can't build a vanilla box and ... call it luxury," says developer Jim Abdo, who used 140-year-old brick from an ex-convent in units at Arlington's Wooster lofts.

Real Estate.

Some developers and real estate agents sound miffed at the frequent use — they say abuse — of the luxury label.

"I think they are using 'luxury' for buildings that don't leak. If you



what they say about granite and stainless? It's the new avocado."

JOSEPH HIMALI. BROKER

have a dry building, you have luxury," said local developer Anthony Lanier. "Tell me one ad that says 'I am not luxury, I am pedestrian."

A few years back, developers touted luxury gourmet kitchens, but in the past year the luxury label has been put on entire units or buildings, said Tim Liu, publish-

CONTINUED ON E6

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CondoLiving



Condos at the Wooster and the Mercer have upgraded Waterworks brand fixtures.

Little Luxuries

CONTINUED FROM E5

er of Dclofts.com, a Web site that tracks new condo projects. He said, "Stainless steel is stainless steel, but are they using the high-end Viking appliances? Attention to detail solid wood doors, dimmer switches, quality windows — makes a real difference," Liu said.

There is little agreement on what it takes to rise to the level of a luxury apartment, besides basics such as a pool or gym and a 24-hour front desk. Many real estate agents would snub a unit without a washer and dryer, parking space and storage unit. Yet some argue that the ultimate luxury is a blank canvas, an empty condo ready for a buyer or his decorator to design the final product.

Sometimes the lack of one amenity — a washer and dryer, for example — can be offset by an abundance of another.

The Prospect House in Arlington, considered among the region's luxury condominiums by several agents, doesn't have washers and dryers in the apartments.



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But residents have a dramatic view of the Marine Corps War and Jefferson memorials and the Capitol from the floor-to-ceiling windows in the living rooms of most units, said Patricia Darneille, who has lived in the building for more



ANTHONY LANIER, DEVELOPER

than 20 years. That makes up for a lot, she said. "Even yesterday on a gloomy rainy day, you look out the window and it's magical," said Darneille, an agent in Century 21 New Millennium's McLean office.

The market for the highest-end condos is limited. The median prices for condos in the District and Montgomery County last year were

\$350,000 and \$285,000 respectively, according to the Greater Capital Area Association of Realtors. The average sales price in Northern Virginia was \$341,840, according to the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors. Units selling for more than \$900,000, for example, accounted for less than 4 percent of the market in the District.

What could entice someone to pay those premium prices? What about an elevator that opens directly into your unit? That is among the offerings Turnberry, a Floridabased developer, is promoting in its 26-floor condo building scheduled to open in Arlington next year. "People love it. They can be as private as they want," said Jim Cohen, vice president of sales at Turnberry.

With the elevator, European kitchens, a concierge and a limousine — available on a first-come, first-served basis — Turnberry caters to residents with expensive tastes. Like many luxury condo developers, Turnberry maintains CONTINUED ON E8







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The Look of Luxe

CONTINUED FROM E7

that the wealthy are largely immune to the market downturn, although some developers and agents admit a little sluggishness in sales and a need to reduce prices slightly.

"Maybe our sales are off a bit, but not to the degree that is happening nationally," Cohen said. "We feel very strongly that the rich stay rich. It is not what they're going to make. It is what they have already made."

At the Mercer and Wooster, two adjoining loft buildings in Clarendon where several units have sold for \$1 million, developer Jim Abdo points to the granite counter tops that are standard. Then he corrects himself. They are not just granite; they are honed Italian granite he choose for a softer, organic look. He points to the 140-year-old brick brought in from a former convent and wrapped around interior columns and then to the places in the wall where speakers and iPod docking stations have been wired.

It's the attention to detail that raises the value of the units, Abdo said. "You can't build a vanilla box and put in granite counter tops and call it luxury," he said.

Lanier also says counter tops don't count for much. "Granite counter tops or stainless steel are as unexciting a standard for luxury as the difference between green paint and white paint," he said.

Instead, a building's bones are important. "You can change the marble top in a bathroom, but you can't change ceiling heights," Lanier said. "You can't change whether the mechanical systems are effective. You can't add an elevator."

For example, Lanier said that at 22 West, his next D.C. condo project, the units will have sophisticated ventilation systems and be soundproofed to block city traffic noise.

And what about the condo owner who shrugs off a front desk and a pool, who is unmoved by even topof-the-line granite?

For some, location is the only luxury needed, said Gigi Winston, principal broker at Winston & Winston. "Sometimes luxury and convenience go hand in hand - being near the Kennedy Center, near the Georgetown waterfront," Winston said.

EXPRESS/CONDO LIVING/03.28.2008



HAVE A NICETY DAY: An indoor pool and elevators that open directly into units are among the perks at Turnberry Towers, an Arlington high-rise delivering next year.

New high-end condos may have solid wood doors, on-site concierges and other amenities.

Washington Harbour in Georgetown, Steve Mottaghi can watch the sun set over the Potomac River. "Easily, having the water view is key," said Mottaghi, 46, the owner of several small businesses, including Hugo Boss retail stores.

Anne Hurley and her husband did not fall in love with their two-

bedroom co-op at the Watergate for its counter tops or appliances but because of the view and a level of service she said makes life easier. "You can have those things, but I would rather come in and have a spectacular view and add that in later," said Hurley, an artist and jewelry maker.

Other buildings offer potentially larger units, but the Watergate's secured parking and proximity to grocery stores and restaurants tipped the scales, she said. And the Watergate's doting staff helps residents with groceries and announces guests. "The services, it was just a total different ballgame," she said.

After retiring, Art and Marlene Hartstein stretched to afford a twobedroom condo at Abdo's Mercer in Clarendon. It is smaller than the Rockville house they sold, but it's only 1.4 miles from their daughter in Georgetown — and, thus, their grandchildren.

It has 10-foot-high ceilings and an open floor plan. The floor-toceiling windows, with their park view, have sapped her desire to travel or even leave home, said Marlene Hartstein, who recently retired as a reading specialist for Montgomery County public schools.

Hartstein, who grew up in a four-room apartment in Brooklyn, said the condo is a chance to live in a way that she and her husband of 45 years always assumed would be unattainable.

"You are living in an apartment, but you feel as if, though, it's almost like a treehouse," said Hartstein, 64. "The feeling of not being confined is truly a luxury." RENAE MERLE (THE WASHINGTON POST)



From his sixth-floor unit at | TUCKED (AND PLUGGED) IN: A bedroom at the Wooster Lofts has techy features like built-in iPod docks and wired speakers.



GROWING TOGETHER, SLOWLY: Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and his wife, Connie Schultz, lived apart for a year so Schultz's daughter could stay at her high school.

A Moving Labor of Love

Merging homes raises real estate questions, not just relationship ones

You know it's love when it survives a shared 700-square-foot condominium — with a single bedroom closet. When it inspires you to sell your first home at a loss. When you delay moving in for more than a year after your wedding so your stepdaughter can finish high school.

As more single people buy property — the National Association of Realtors found that nearly 30 percent of buyers last year were single — more people are facing complicated housing choices when they find a partner. Do you sell both places and buy a new place together? Sell or rent one and move into the other? Share a too-small place?

Getting married or moving in together has always been a momentous decision. But in a down real estate market, the stakes can be even higher.

Jeremy Shere, 31, bought a one-bedroom condo in Takoma Park in June 2006, "basically a month and a half before meeting Marci [Lesser]."

He paid \$202,500, including closing costs. He has been trying to sell the place without an agent and is asking \$199,999. He expects that he eventually will hire an agent and said that after the transaction costs and commissions and a cut in price, the numbers won't look good.

But there was no question that he would move into her place. Marci's parents bought her a 1,285-square-foot condo in Arlington when she was a student at American University. It is not only almost twice the size of his place, but it's also much more conve-

nient for her job in Chantilly.

Corey MuÃffloz, 29, moved into Zachary Price's 700-square-foot condo a year ago after they had been dating for a year. Price, 28, bought it a month before they met.

Price, who sells computer technology to the government, had gotten a big enough commission to make a 20 percent down payment on a \$280,000 new condo in the U Street corridor in Northwest.

He said he wanted the tax benefits of ownership, and he recalled thinking, "'Oh, there's no question I'll sell this place for \$350,000 in three years.' I needed to get in the game." Instead, it's listed for \$310,000, and, he said: "I would walk away with a big smile on my face without making a cent."

MuÃffloz said that he and Price were worried that living in a small space would strain their relationship but that they wanted to try living together before buying together.

"We took a good three months talking about it," he said. The biggest challenge was that shared closet. They went through their wardrobes, each holding up every piece and asking, "Are you really going to wear this again?"

They donated 15 bags of clothes to Goodwill.

They just bought a new condo together, also in the U Street neighborhood, with three bedrooms and twice as much space. Even without selling the one-bedroom condo, they had enough to put a little more than 20 percent down.

Connie Schultz remarried almost four years ago, when her younger child was a junior in high school. "You are merging entire ways of life, entire histories. It's not the same as getting married in your 20s or 30s."

And Schultz had a particularly

Washington-style challenge: her husband, Sherrod Brown, was a member of the House of Representatives from the Cleveland area. He could not stay in his district if he moved in with Schultz, which they considered to allow her daughter, Caitlin, to graduate from her high school.

They married in April 2004. "Then we kept the two houses going.



away with a big smile on my face without making a cent."

ZACHARY PRICE, CONDO OWNER

'How insane is this?" she said.

But Schultz didn't move. Instead, they sold Brown's house and bought one together in a new development. "We just wanted to have a fresh start," Schultz said. "We were almost deliriously happy to be in the same house."

A month after they moved in, Brown, a Democrat, ran for the U.S. Senate, and he beat Republican Sen. Mike DeWine in 2006. Brown is in Washington when the Senate is in session and goes home to Ohio on weekends.

Tom Moreno, 29, and his partner also chose to start anew together, selling their one-bedroom condos in Virginia two years ago and buying a two-bedroom in the District.

Moreno's condo cost \$135,000 four years ago. He expected to live in it for two years and to make a profit from the improvements he had made. He did make a profit when he sold it two years ago, furnished, for \$211,000.

The couple kept only one bed and one bookshelf, and each hung only one piece of art from his previous home, choosing to compromise on taste in all their purchases. In contrast, Lesser didn't change much in her home when Shere joined her. He gave away most of his furniture.

But the couples say that what they've gained far outweighs such annoyances, or even bigger drags, such as losing money on a sale.

"I consider myself the luckiest guy in the world," Shere said. "When I was single, I couldn't have described a woman as perfect for me as Marci is." MARA LEE (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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EXPRESS/CONDO LIVING/03.28.2008



The 'hood looks good, but don't take out a bigger mortgage than you can afford.

What to Know Before You Bio

A book gives new condo hunters tips on neighbors, loans and more

There's an old adage that claims a man's (or woman's) home is his (or her) castle. But when your home is a condo, your castle is directly attached to the palaces of many other royal families, er, people. So, it's not as easy to rule your roost the way you could on, say, a 10-acre spread. In close quarters, you may find that your neighbors don't like listening to your Metallica CDs any more than you enjoy hearing them in the midst of their romantic conquests.

In her book "The Condo Owner's Answer Book" (\$17, Sphinx Publishing), real estate pro Beth A. Grimm tries to help such buyers sleep

> easier. She delves into issues ranging from noise control to neighborhoods. We chatted with her recently.

What should people consider before buying a condo in this dropping market?

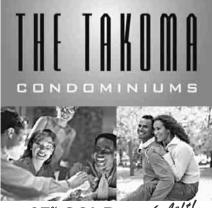
GRIMM: One of the biggest things people need to be wary of is if they're **CONTINUED ON E12**

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squeezing in on a mortgage, there are likely to be increases in assessments coming in many associations because of the mortgage crisis. It's



forcing more people out of their homes, and other owners in associations with lots of foreclosures are going to have to pick up the dif-

ference in money lost in assessments. So, the biggest concern [for buyers] is making sure they have a little financial cushion.

What are the advantages to owning a condo?

GRIMM: The advantages of a condo are great. It's lock-and-go living. You don't have to do outdoor maintenance. There are more people around, so, if you leave, normally it's a safer situation because there are people milling around and it doesn't look like there's a vacant home. There are more amenities than you can usually afford in a home.

So, what's the downside?

GRIMM: You don't have complete control over your finances. It's possible that your money could be mismanaged by volunteers. You have the mortgage plus assessments to pay, and you're subject to more market variations on building costs because you're involved in more construction — it's not just on your home but on the homes of others sharing the costs.

What does a condo association do? **GRIMM**: Its role is to collect your money and spend it to manage the property. Some boards do it a lot better than others. They have a difficult role, because they're charged with running a business oftentimes without specific training.

What's covered by the condo fees. and what do I have to cover myself? **GRIMM**: Usually the owner is respon-



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sible for the interior of the unit, which would mean flooring, wall coverings, their furniture and personal belongings. It could be just the air space, and it could be that the association does everything else. But it's possible that the owner could be responsible for window replacement. Generally, the association is responsible for the maintenance.

How is the process of buying a condo different from buying a single-family home?

GRIMM: You have to qualify not only for a mortgage, but you also have to qualify for assessments as well. Getting inspections done is sometimes more difficult because inspectors maybe can't get access to common areas; they can only get access to your unit. Since you're sharing your money and resources with other people, there are financial documents you'll want to review, but they're complicated enough that the average person might have trouble figuring out what kind of financial shape the association is in.



How much should you plan on paying in assessments?

GRIMM: It depends on what amenities are available. If it's just open space and street, it's not the same as a community that has pools and tennis courts and things like that. It's a danger sign if you go into an association, and it brags that it hasn't raised assessments in 10 years. That

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A new assessment of your condo might lead to higher fees after you've bought it.

usually means there has been some deferred maintenance.

Is taking an active role in the homeowners' association in your best interest?

GRIMM: It is, because then you know exactly what is going on, and you have a say in the decisions. I always think it's a good idea. ... But there is some risk in serving on the board because you can be sued. If you don't like what your board is doing and think it's violating the law or something like that, you may want to resign. Boards acting badly are lawsuits waiting to happen.

Is there a way to find out - before buying - whether the walls of your condo are thick enough to drown out your guitar-playing neighbor or the barking dog upstairs?

GRIMM: Go to the planning department, and pull the original building construction plans. If it's a new development, the developer should be willing to let you look at them. You can ask to have some kind of noise test conducted. You can have an acoustic specialist come in and do a test. ...And try to get in some situation where you're in the unit when there are people in the unit next door.

The condo next to yours is rented out, and the current tenants could win the award for world's worst neighbors. What can you do about it? **GRIMM:** If your neighbors are doing anything in violation [of the community's rules and regulations], contact the homeowners' association and get it involved. You can also find out the owner of the unit by calling your local assessor's office. ... But the board has more teeth behind it, and if the board really analyses things and finds there are violations of the governing documents going on, it should take some responsibility and do something.

If you'd like to buy a condo in a building still under construction, or where construction hasn't even started yet, is there anything extra you need to consider or look out for?

GRIMM: Views are something to watch out for. In a new development, there isn't a lot of landscaping grown to its full potential. If you see some trees planted, you might want to know what kind of trees they are and what effect they're going to have on your views. Another fairly common issue is that developers want to keep assessments low so they can get people in. ... After the building is all sold-out, the owners find out that the budget is inadequate to maintain the place, and so assessments tend to go up. ... Sometimes in a new development you want to be really careful because in an economy like now, you may be excited and **CONTINUED ON E14**



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buy and be one of the first ones in a development, and then the developer goes belly-up because it can't complete the project. And that can create serious problems. You need to understand the financial capability of the developer.

So, should I buy a brand-new condo? Or are older ones of conversions [apartments made into condos] better?

GRIMM: If you buy a brand-new condo, try and get out when it's between five to 10 years old, unless you're planning on staying for the duration or you're willing to risk the potential for construction defect litigation somewhere in the sixth, seventh, eighth or ninth year. That's usually when problems start to manifest.



Start watching, and really paying close attention. If you're thinking about moving on, it's a good idea to do that in the fifth or sixth year.

Conversions are a huge risk, I think. There are a lot of requirements about bringing buildings up to a certain level, but you can't take a really old building and make it a new building. A lot of times the work done doesn't address all of the problems of a building built for apartments.

In an older development, I'd ask when was the last time they did a major renovation? If one hasn't been done, it's probably in the mix.

Is a condo a good investment now?

GRIMM: I think condos are as good an investment as anything else. I think it's a really good investment for people who want the lock-andgo capability. But I think you have to study the real estate market to understand what the investment prospects are. If you're a first-time buyer and you can't qualify for a single-family home but you can find a condo development you can afford, it makes sense, if you check it out and are careful about what you buy, to become a property owner that way. BETH LUBERECK!

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